

# Jordan Times

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## Book links Iran to New York bombing

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Iran was responsible for the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York in February, according to a new book by the director of a congressional task force on terrorism. The January 1993 book, "The World Trade Centre Bombing: A Report to Congress," by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, was written by a panel of experts. The book, written by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, was written by a panel of experts. The book, written by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, was written by a panel of experts.

## Crown Prince meets with 5 envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received at the Royal Court the ambassadors of Qatar, Russia, Brazil, Sudan and Burkina Faso and discussed with them relations between Jordan and their countries.

## Minister welcomes 2,000 pilgrims

SOUTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Sunday welcomed the first congregation of 2,000 Palestinian pilgrims, who arrived in South Shouneh on their way to Mecca and Medina to perform the Hajj. Sheikh Tamimi conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein to the group and informed them that Jordanian teams will provide them with all the necessary facilities to them.

## Peres heads for India and China

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Sunday left for India where he will make a groundbreaking visit, foreign ministry officials said. Mr. Peres, travelling via Frankfurt, Germany, will be the first Israeli foreign minister to visit New Delhi since India, a staunch supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Israel established full diplomatic ties in January 1992 after 40 years of hostility.

## Mubarak concludes Gulf tour

RIYADH (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday concluded a tour of the Gulf Arab countries during which he discussed Iran's alleged role in the threats against the region and an accommodation of relations. He left Riyadh after a day of talks with Saudi King Fahd and a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

## 3 detainees released from Khiam

MARIYOUN (AP) — Three Lebanese Muslim women detainees were freed from a prison in Khiam, a self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon Sunday. The women were released to five other detainees in the prison.

## Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

IDON (R) — Guerrillas attacked an Israeli-backed militia position in South Lebanon Sunday, killing one Israeli soldier and wounding another. The guerrillas fired anti-tank rockets and machineguns at the militia position.

## Aviv blast injures 35

TEL AVIV (R) — A gas explosion Sunday killed one person and injured 35 people in a shopping complex in Tel Aviv. The explosion occurred in a shopping complex in Tel Aviv.

## Somali congress names president

MOGADISHU (R) — A congress of self-styled Somali republicans has elected veteran politician Abdirahman Ibrahim Egal as president. Speaking by telephone from London, Mr. Omar Dohad said that Egal had replaced Abdirahman Ali, acting president of the Somali Republic in 1991.

## 4 Palestinians, 2 Israelis killed in Gaza violence

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian children, including a baby, during protests Sunday on the Gaza Strip, where two Israeli merchants and two Palestinians were also killed.

The merchants died in the bloodiest anti-Israeli attack since the occupied territories were sealed in March, and the violence came three days after the conclusion of the latest round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream group Fatah and the rival Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) claimed responsibility for the attack in an unprecedented joint statement. Assaults in a passing Peugeot car opened fire on the four men near the Jewish settlement of Gush Katif in the southern beachfront district of Rafah, an army spokesman said.

Two of the victims were vegetable merchants from southern Israel and the other two were the Palestinian farmers from the Khan Yunis area of Gaza, he said.

Fatah, which supports the peace talks, and the anti-peace Hamas said that the merchants were in the army said that the attack was revenge for the army's killing of several of their members earlier this month.

The Arab victims were identified as Tawfik Zourab, 3, of Khan Yunis in Gaza, and Ziad Abu Jurab, 25, from Hebron in the West Bank.

The army has warned Israelis against travelling to the occupied territories, particularly since a closure imposed March 31 raised tensions. But some Israeli merchants take the risk to reap profits from produce they purchase in Gaza at lower prices than in Israel.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur renewed the warning Sunday, saying that entering Gaza was "contrary to instructions from security forces."

But legally the closure bars only Palestinians from leaving Gaza and does not prevent Israelis from entering the area.

The shootings came 12 hours after four Israeli soldiers were injured by a hand grenade thrown at a military outpost in Gaza's Shati refugee camp, the army said.

Three of the soldiers were injured slightly and one received moderate injuries, said an army spokesman.

Earlier Saturday, Israeli troops shot and injured 51 Gazans during stone-throwing protests. The Israeli deaths bring to 159 the number of Israelis killed since the uprising began in December 1987, including three since the occupied territories were closed at the end of March.

An 18-month-old Palestinian, Fares Mohammad Al Kurdi, was fatally wounded Sunday as troops fired at demonstrators in Jabalia refugee camp, Palestinian sources said.

The boy was playing on the steps of his home 200 metres away.



Israeli soldiers run past burning tyres in the Gaza City neighbourhood of Zeitun (AFP photo)

## Palestinians will continue peace talks, Arafat says

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has vowed that the Palestinians will press on with the Middle East talks despite the "failure" of the latest round of negotiations in Washington.

"These negotiations are a political battle we are waging with determination and confidence the way the Algerians and Vietnamese committed themselves to negotiations during their (national) struggle," Mr. Arafat said here late Saturday.

He was speaking at the opening here of the central council of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF), headed by Samir Ghoshe.

The remarks carried by the PLO news agency, WAFA, came after the ninth round of talks ended Thursday without an agreement. Palestinian groups opposed to the talks again called for the PLO to abandon support for the negotiations.

Mr. Arafat vowed the Palestinian negotiators would not sell out the cause for statehood. He urged "all Palestinians to fight hand in hand until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine."

Mr. Ghoshe approved Palestinian participation in the peace talks, WAFA said.

A rival wing of the PPSF based in Damascus last week called for the withdrawal of the Palestinians from the peace talks.

The deputy chief of the Palestinian negotiating team with Israel, Saeb Erakat, said in Amman that the Palestine Central Committee will meet soon to examine the results of the ninth round.

Speaking to reporters before heading to the Israeli-occupied territories, Dr. Erakat said the committee will "take the appropriate decision on the future of the peace process."

He said the "divide remains wide" between the Palestinian and Israeli positions, especially over a five-year interim period of self-rule in the territories.

Current Israeli proposals "exclude Jerusalem, the (Jewish) settlements and the security issue" during the self-rule period, he said.

But they include new elements, such as the "link" between the interim and final phases of the peace talks, plans for elections under international supervision, and legislative powers to be granted to the Palestinian self-ruling council.

Dr. Erakat accused Israel and the United States of breaking several promises made before the ninth round of peace talks last month.

Dr. Erakat arrived in Amman late Saturday along with two other negotiators. Other members of the team, including chief delegate Faisal Husseini and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, were in Tunis to brief the PLO.

Dr. Erakat said Israel failed to meet obligations outlined in a U.S.-mediated agreement that lured them back into the negotiations.

He said one was a clear timetable for the return home of 396 Palestinian expellees that Israel expelled Dec. 17.

Among other "confidence-building measures" that Israel promised but did not provide were the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, a halt to Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes and a reduction of Israeli taxes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said.

## Jordan awaiting movement of Palestinian track

AMMAN (I.T.) — Dr. Arafat's negotiator in peace talks with Israel, has returned home after the ninth round of talks was that there was no progress.

Dr. Majali, who returned home Sunday, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan could move forward in its track negotiations with Israel without movement on the Palestinian Israeli track.

Three weeks of Middle East peace talks, part of a process which began in Madrid in November 1991, ended Thursday without agreement on the principle of Palestinian self-rule, the of the present talks, or a firm for the talks to resume.

Syria and Lebanon are part of the peace talks.

The Jordanian negotiating team "adheres to Jordan's principles and the directives of Majesty King Hussein by coordinating with the Arab parties involved in the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian track of negotiations since the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East conflict," Dr. Majali said.

The U.S. has fulfilled some of its promises "made prior to the resumption of the talks" in Washington on April 27, Majali said.

"On the Jordanian-Israeli tracks, working groups have been formed to discuss the power issues," he noted.

But, he said, the King could not move forward with movement on Palestinian-Israeli track.

"The main Arab parties to peace talks will be meeting in Amman soon to evaluate the outcome of the ninth round of talks and adopt a unified position towards the tenth round, in the participation strategy date," he said.

The ninth round of talks was delayed because of Israel's provocative actions in the occupied territories which prompted the Arabs to suspend the Palestinian point of view on Arab coordination talks, he noted.

## Despite its shortcomings, Jordan's new press law more progressive than Arab equivalents

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The new Press and Publications Law goes into effect in Jordan today, having passed through its constitutional stages: Approval by the two houses of Parliament (after a long and heated debate), endorsement by Royal Decree and its publication in the Official Gazette, a month after the Royal Decree approving it.

The Law, which replaces a 1973 legislation, is described by officials as an unprecedented landmark in an Arab World long used to repressive curbs on the press. But critics argue that the law is not entirely compatible with the democratisation underway in Jordan.

Almost two years of work has gone into the legislation, which, according to those who helped draft it, contains elements from current constitutions in both western and Eastern countries.

Senior officials agree that the law is not perfect, but argue that it is best suited for Jordan, given the distinct socio-political environment in the country.

"We have had a long debate on the law, in the press, in Parliament and elsewhere," said Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif. "It is not an absolutely perfect piece of legislation and there may still be arguments (over its contents), but that does not change the reality that the law goes into effect Monday."

"I am very well aware of the dark and bright spots in our media," said Mr. Sharif, who himself worked as a journalist for many years.

"I believe that the new law is very progressive when compared with its equivalents elsewhere in the Arab World," he said. "It is a great step forward in democracy. In due course of time, as our democracy develops further and takes deeper roots, we could seek to plug some of the loopholes in it."

In the meantime, he said, "I hope Jordanian journalists, particularly the newcomers who have come in (to fill the requirements) of new political party newspapers, will live up to their responsibilities and respect the ethics of the profession."

The main bone of contention of journalists who criticise the law is what they see as vague definitions of sensitive terms included in it, including national security, Arab and Islamic culture and values, "national responsibility" and the Jordanian currency.

These journalists say that the ambiguity of definitions leaves the field open for the authorities to have their own interpretation and adopt action against journalists where disagreement exists.

Mr. Sharif counters such arguments by pointing out that it will not be the government but the judicial authorities who will have the final say in determining whether any journalist violated the law.

"The law actually protects journalists from government action" and offers them the due process of the judicial system, the minister said, referring to the provision that the executive authority has to go to court with complaints against the press before taking action on violations.

"I believe that the journalists need to protect themselves from within their ranks, particularly against those elements who may tend to abuse the freedom of press," he said.

Critics also argue that there are no provisions in the law which obligate the government to allow journalists to have access to documents which have direct relevance to public life, and the absence by itself is an infringement upon the freedom of information.

Another point raised by Jordanian journalists relates to a clause stipulating that jour-



Mahmoud Al Sharif

nalists in the Kingdom would be allowed to practice their profession only if they are members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). This gives the association the upper hand in determining who could work in the field and who could not.

Critics say that this is a form of censorship against the freedom of association since it forces journalists to become members of a specific organisation.

JPA President Suleiman Qudus said the association, although it is empowered to do so, does not plan to take the clause too seriously. "We do not want to deprive anyone of the livelihood," he said. "However, we would like all journalists in Jordan to become JPA members in due course."

Perhaps the most controversial clause in the law is the one which forces journalists to reveal their source of information if called upon to do so in court of law.

Many journalists believe that officials will no longer be willing to part with information on government affairs lest it might lead to their being implicated in cases heard before courts.

While the government is offering any specific response to such criticism, it is seen relying on the very fact that the law will have under the law, in itself, a great leap forward.

(Continued on page 10)



## Yaqi marshes calm, villagers tell visitors

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

OSHUWEI, Iraq — British amateurs found all quiet in the marshes, where the Iraqis accuse Baghdad of trying to wipe out Shi'ite rebels. Villagers at the edge of the marshes say their biggest fear is the noise of U.S. jets flying over the marshes. They told opposition Labour members Tam Dalyell and George Galloway on a fact-finding mission at the weekend that the marshes were as calm as waters in which villagers fish, as they have for centuries. Baghdad has repeatedly denied Iraq reports and charges by ex-Iraqis of a military drive to force out tens of thousands of rebels who took refuge in the marshes in the southern part of the country close to the border with Kuwait.

The main thing is the flying, it says the children, said a village head, Faleh Suweili, referring to the sonic boom of U.S. jets flying over the marshes. "I don't know the southern 'no-fly' zone," he said. "I don't know the marshes."

At there is an occupation going on, the Iraqi army here it's certainly not here and it's certain that these people and I'd ask call gone to show me evidence of it was and who it was," said Galloway.

"In February, the London Evening Standard printed a story by a journalist who had spent 10 days with Shi'ites in the marshes and said Iraqi forces had villages every night and had fired water in an attempt to destroy the marshes and destroy the marshes."

Mr. Galloway said he had seen British military presence on the Tigris from Baghdad than on his claim visits to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

There were no unusual checkpoints on the 480-kilometre highway. If south from the capital but raids and army tent camps were a sight along the road. In Iraqis say is still plagued by Shiite shanty clusters of reed houses on the edge of the huge Al Samarra marshes was the same village all. Then journalists visit — off-

cial said because it was representative of the whole area. Ten-year-old girls poled long wooden canoes, ferrying the parliamentarians who were among the most vocal British opponents of the 1991 Gulf war, along water channels crowded with ducks and geese on a one kilometre ride down the marsh.

In airy guest houses made of woven reeds, President Saddam Hussein's picture hung side by side with portraits of Shi'ite religious leaders and village elders declared their loyalty to Baghdad.

"All the children will tell you everyone loves Saddam," said one tribal elder.

"Everyone wants to know what is the reason for this no-fly zone," said the area's top official of the ruling Baath Party, Yahya Abdullah. He said daily flights had provoked heart attacks and miscarriages in the community. "We feel we are besieged from the air."

Mr. Abdullah said saboteurs from Iran, about 40 kilometres away, occasionally infiltrated Iraqi territory but were usually killed by villagers themselves.

The two British MPs said Saturday they expected to visit two Britons jailed in Iraq and would appeal to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for their release.

Mr. Dalyell and Mr. Galloway are the first British MPs to come to government-controlled Iraq since the Gulf war, which both opposed.

"It was discussed before we came, we continued to make inquiries and we think we will be able to see the prisoners tomorrow (Sunday)," Mr. Galloway told Reuters while visiting a hospital in the southern Iraqi town of Umm Qasr now partly in Kuwait.

Mr. Galloway said they had not been in touch with relatives of Paul Rida and Michael Wainwright and had no details of the well-being of the two, who are regularly visited by Russian diplomats representing British interests in Baghdad.

Mr. Galloway said he and Mr. Dalyell would ask Mr. Aziz in a meeting expected Sunday to help free the men as a humanitarian gesture. Both are held for illegal entry of Iraq.

"We will say that there is no complaint from us that these people have been unjustly held. They would appear to have broken Iraqi law," he said. "But I think that such a humanitarian gesture on the part of the Iraqis should help break the permanent frost on Britain's relations with Iraq."

Relatives of three Swedes also



British Member of Parliament Tam Dalyell (wearing glasses) tours the marshes in southern Iraq. (Below) Mr. Dalyell and fellow MP George Galloway speak to U.N. officials in the port of Umm Qasr (AFP photo)



some distance south of the true border.

The change gives Kuwait most of Iraq's main naval base of Umm Qasr and a larger share in the Rumailah oilfield. Sixty-three Iraqi families now living in Kuwait territory say they will not move from their homes.

Hospital doctors at Umm Qasr told the MPs that U.N. trade sanctions in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait were killing patients because of lack of food and medicine.

"The British government should respond to the Iraqi plea to unfreeze assets which will be used to purchase British pharmaceuticals which are desperately needed in this hospital and in others we have visited," Mr. Galloway told Reuters.

Western relief officials have no accurate statistics on the effect of sanctions on Iraq but agree that infant mortality has risen since the trade ban deprived Iraq of cash by shutting in its oil exports.

American oil worker Kenneth Beatty is in reasonable health in an Iraqi jail but there are fears his heart condition could worsen, a Polish diplomat said Sunday.

"He is a man who has a history of heart problems so although he is now in normal health condition there is always a risk that his health condition could deteriorate," Jan Piekarski, head of Poland's American interests section in Baghdad, told Reuters.

## Tougher sanctions in store for Libya

NICOSIA (R) — Arab mediators have told Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi the West is determined to smash Libya's vital oil industry unless he hands over for trial two men accused of the Lockerbie plane bombing, senior Arab diplomats said Sunday.

They said that although the measures had yet to be agreed, Colonel Qaddafi had been given until Aug. 15 to meet Western demands.

Western allies have agreed on the need for wider sanctions but are still debating their options at the United Nations Security Council, the sources said.

They said the options had been outlined to Col. Qaddafi by Arab envoys earlier this month as:

— An American-favoured proposal for a full embargo on Libya's oil sales to prevent its export of 1.36 million barrels a day of crude, the lifeline of its economy.

— A French proposal to freeze all Libya's foreign assets, which could have the more severe effect of preventing Libya using any oil export revenue and blocking its substantial investments abroad.

— A proposal to bar supply of all oil-related machinery and spare parts, which the sources said would not hit Libya immediately but could bring its oil industry to a halt within six months.

The Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo against Libya on April 15, 1992, to force it to hand over for the trial in Britain or the U.S. two alleged intelligence agents blamed for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland in which 270 people died.

The embargo was imposed also to force Libyan cooperation in French investigations into the bombing of a French airliner over Niger the following year, in which 171 people died.

Libya has so far refused to hand over the men.

The diplomats said that Italy, France and Germany, Libya's main European oil clients, opposed the oil embargo proposal.

Freezing Libya's assets would block its access to annual earnings of some \$10 billion from oil exports.

Bankers say Libya has been moving its foreign assets, including \$6.5 billion in cash and holdings in some 900 firms worldwide, into banks in Asia and elsewhere in the Third World, out of the reach of the West.

The Europeans argue that assets freeze would keep them supplied with oil but force Libya to draw on its funds hidden in the Third World to keep the industry working.

"The French proposal for a freeze on assets appears to be a better alternative for Libya at face value... in fact it would be more damaging," the source said.

It was not immediately clear who backed the proposal to block the sale of spare parts and machinery to Libya, he said.

Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Montasser said earlier this month his country planned to redirect its European investments, except for real estate assets, into "safer areas" in booming Asia.

He said the move was also linked to the freezing of Libya's \$4 billion assets in the U.S. in 1986.

## Pakistan sets deadline for unauthorised Arabs to leave

PESHAWAR (AFP) — Pakistan's North West Frontier Province has ordered all unauthorised Arab nationals to leave the country by May 31 or face arrest, officials said Sunday.

"Those who fail to exit voluntarily by that date will be arrested," provincial Home Secretary Gulzar Khan said of the order, aimed at ridding the area of Islamic militants suspected of involvement in terrorism.

No official number of Arab nationals living in the province has been released but estimates have put the tally at around 2,000.

But officials said the expulsion order did not apply to about 600 Arab nationals living legally in the province, which borders Afghanistan and was a base to many Islamic groups during the neighbouring country's 14-year war.

Those permitted to remain include some 550 Arabs working with registered non-government organisations engaged in relief activities and students sponsored by their governments.

Mr. Khan said nearly 200 Arabs, arrested during a police sweep since early April, were left the country in compliance with official orders.

He did not say where they had gone to, but newspaper reports and sources here mentioned Sudan or Afghanistan as likely destinations.

The home secretary said 17 Arabs were still in police custody and would be released as soon as details of their departure had been worked out.

Reports from Cairo earlier this month said some 250 Arabs had been deported to Sudan but this was denied by the Pakistani government.

Meanwhile, two Algerian diplomats had talks here Saturday with provincial authorities about Peshawar-based Algerians believed to be aiding fundamentalist unrest in the north African country, officials sources said.

The diplomats told police that the Algerians had been publishing provocative literature and shipping it back home, the sources said, adding that the provincial administration had ordered police to track them down.

A team from Cairo also visited the town recently in connection with Egyptian nationals believed to be abetting terrorist activities in Egypt from here.

The crackdown on illegal Arabs is linked to Pakistan's intensified efforts to improve its international image.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**Leader of Moroccan rights movement said held**

PARIS (AFP) — A prominent member of the Moroccan human rights movement whose husband is a political prisoner, has been arrested herself and accused of "lese majeste" for criticising the way prisoners of conscience are treated, three human rights groups said in a statement here Saturday. Zulikha Al Akhdari a leader of the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMRH) is alleged to have offended King Hassan II and could face up to five years in jail. Her husband Tbel Said is serving 12 years at Kenitra prison for opposing the regime. Zulikha Al Akhdari, a teacher and mother of two children, including a 45-year-old baby, was detained after she denounced a recent deterioration in conditions for political prisoners. Prisoners were denied medical care, refused access to news. Their mail was censored and they were no longer allowed direct contact with visitors, she reportedly said. The three movements who disclosed her arrest, namely the Committees Against Repression in Morocco (CLCRM), the Moroccan Human Rights Defence Association (ASDHOM), and the Association of Relatives and Friends of Missing Persons in Morocco (APADM) are currently fighting a move to make Morocco vice-president of the World Conference on Human Rights taking place in June in Vienna.

**45 people injured in Egypt fire**

CAIRO (AP) — Fire swept a small village in the Nile Delta Saturday, injuring 45 people and destroying 160 mud-brick houses. No deaths were reported. The state-owned Middle East News Agency said 45 fire brigades took part in extinguishing the fire at Kafr Mahmoudia in Sharkia province. It said a short circuit ignited the fire in the hay pens used to store on the roof-tops of their houses. Khamasin winds helped spread the fire from house to house. Authorities are providing tents to peasants left homeless by the fire that continued for four hours.

**U.N. official, minister visit Sudan camps**

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A senior U.N. aid official and a Sudanese government minister have visited refugee camps in western Sudan, after reports that people displaced by the civil war were living in desperate conditions, state television reported Saturday. Peter Janvid, the United Nations representative in Sudan, and State Minister at the Presidency Ghazi Salahuddin were shown visiting the camps in the Mairam and Abeyi areas in the Kordofan region, in western Sudan. The official news agency SUNA said up to 17,000 displaced people were living in the area, trekking to the region from Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile regions in southern Sudan. They were being driven from the south by harsh economic conditions not the war between government forces and southern rebels, the agency said. During their camp visit Mr. Janvid and Salahuddin were briefed by relief workers on the food and health situation in the region.

**Eight killed in Algerian violence**

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces shot dead seven Muslim fundamentalists in a series of clashes near the capital in which a police sergeant also died, official sources said Saturday. Three men, identified as those behind the murder of two gendarmes at Chief last Wednesday, were killed on Saturday in a bidout at Tenes, 150 kilometres west of Algiers, said the gendarmerie, quoted by the official news agency APS. Another 20 people had been arrested over the killings of the security force members. Police mowing a road block shot dead two men described as "terrorists" — the term officials use for fundamentalists — at Birkhadem, on the southern outskirts of Algiers Thursday, APS said. The men opened fire on the road block, fatally wounding a police sergeant, APS said, quoting Algiers police. The same day, police killed a militant at nearby Baraki. On Friday, in the coastal town of Boumerdes, 40 kilometres east of Algiers, security forces killed another militant. In Sidi Fredj military zone in Tipaza province of Friday, security forces shot dead an intruder who ignored a warning, Algiers Radio said. It gave no other details. More than 600 people have been killed in ambushes or clashes in Algeria since a state of emergency was decreed in February 1992 after the authorities scrapped elections the now-banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

## Crackdown signals Saudi aim to quash critics

By Yousef Azmeah  
Reuters

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's crackdown against founders of first human rights group Guadalupe the kingdom's determination to quash radical criticism of its own fundamentalist and of Islam, Arab and movement experts say.

The group made clear after guerrillas set up earlier this month that it aimed to defend teachers imprisoned for opposing the government's out-of-Western policies and to challenge the Islamic credentials of the country's judicial system.

"They were openly challenging the legitimacy of the Saudi system of government. Such a challenge could not be allowed to stand," one Arab expert said.

Western diplomats said other though the group did not seem a direct threat to the first use of Saudi that rules the

world's biggest oil exporting state, its formation was probably seen as the last straw in growing ultra-fundamentalist agitation.

The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights was viewed as all the more dangerous because it posed as a defender of a cause that would be espoused by human rights activists around the world, the experts said.

Like other governments in the region, Saudi Arabia was also determined to stamp out Islamic extremism that has sprouted such movements as Egypt's violent Al Gama'a Al Islamiya and Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), banned after being prevented from winning power by military intervention.

"The situation in Saudi Arabia is nowhere as volatile as that in Egypt or Algeria. These two are poverty stricken. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's richest countries and most of

its people are opposed to the radicals," a diplomat said.

"But they (the government) felt the radicals had to be stopped," he added.

The Saudi royal family rules the kingdom as the upholders of the strict Wahhabi puritanical tradition of Islam and as guardians of Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina.

Saudi security forces were reported Saturday to have arrested Mohammad Ben Abdullah Al Masaari, who has acted as spokesman for the committee since it was founded by six religious figures on May 3.

But Sheikh Abdullah Al Masaari, the group's principal figure and Mohammad's father, has made clear it will not disband despite appeals by a senior prince, chastisement by the religious hierarchy and interrogation by the security forces.

"I told them we shall try and try again to convince the au-

## NEWS ANALYSIS

It was seen as the world's leading Muslim fundamentalist power until the emergence of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic republic in Iran 14 years ago.

The diplomats said that figures on the radical right of the Saudi royals have been preaching an anti-Western and anti-modernisation crusade ever since more than 500,000 mainly American non-Muslim

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**PROGRAMME TWO**

10:00	Joseph Bakamo
10:05	News in French
10:10	Magazine Sportif
10:15	News in Hebrew
10:20	News in Arabic
10:25	The Powers that Be
10:30	Documentary
10:35	News in English
10:40	Street Justice

**PRAYER TIMES**

10:00	Fajr
10:05	(Sunrise) Dhuhur
10:10	Asr
10:15	Maghreb
10:20	Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Agfa 810740

Presbyterians of God Church, Tel. 622685

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490

St. George of the Annunciation Tel. 622686

St. Basil Church Tel. 622687

St. Michael Church Tel. 622688

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**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

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Dr. Khalid Al Masadi	743500
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha	752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zuhairi	898140
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asama pharmacy	637055
Nasrout pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644545
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Nasrout pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632

**BEIRUT:**

Dr. Fayez Al Qadhi	661101
Al-Qadhi pharmacy	661101

**ZARQA:**

Dr. Walid Hales	773111
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Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday inspects road construction along the east coast of the Dead Sea (Petra photo)

## Sharif Zeid inspects new road construction

AL ZARA (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday inspected road construction along the east coast of the Dead Sea and expressed appreciation of efforts by the Ministry of Public Works which is sponsoring the project and the General Machinery Company which is building the road.

Accompanied by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Srour and other officials, the prime minister was briefed on the progress of work as well as the difficulties encountered.

The 31-kilometre stretch of road linking the towns of Zaza and Ghor Haditha is part of a 90-kilometre road stretching from Sweimeh near the northern edge of the Dead Sea and Ghor Safi to the southern parts of the sea.

This part of the road, it was explained, is being built through extremely rough terrain.

Work on the road had originally started in 1987, was halted in 1990 because of the former contractor's default, and was resumed under new contractors last July.

The road, which is expected to cost JD 11,690,350, is due to be completed by August this year.

Sharif Zeid and his party also inspected progress on the construction of the Wadi Mujib Bridge by the Bitar and Saleh Contracting Company.

The bridge is located at the mouth of the Wadi Mujib River, and will link Zarqa-Ghor with the northern and southern parts of the Zarqa-Ghor Haditha Highway.

The 140-metre long, 13.5 metre wide bridge costs JD 1,488,980, and is expected to be completed by the end of November 1993.



HER ROYAL Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Sunday opens the second art exhibition of the Young Muslim Women's Centre for Special Education. According to centre director Ghassoun Al Farej, the exhibition includes works by students at the centre's vocational training section, such as knitwear, ceramics, woodwork and paintings. The centre was established in 1974 and includes three educational sections: the kindergarten, the school and the vocational training section. The exhibit was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of the Young Muslim Women's Society at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hloch and Margaret M. Hloch at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Suba Katibah Noursi at the Spanish Cultural.
- ★ Art exhibition of works by artists from Jordan, Iraq and Morocco at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Children's illustration exhibition by Lamia Abdul Sahib at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by students from Nazareth College at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al Sharif at Saladna Art Gallery.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Humeima and the Abbasid Revolution" by Dr. Robert Schick at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7 p.m.

## BID INVITATION - (BY SEALED ENVELOPE)

### The Ports Corporation — Aqaba

The Ports Corporation wishes to sell by auction the "floating restaurant" which consists of the following parts:

Main structure - Barge made of marine steel.

Superstructure — (shelter accommodation) - closed dining room terrace, kitchenware.

Those interested in this auction are kindly requested to report to tenders secretary at the Ports Corporation, Aqaba during working hours to collect bid copies against a non-refundable sum of JD 50.

Closing date for the sale of bids is Saturday, May 27, 1993, 12:00 hrs. Deadline for accepting offers is Sunday, June 13, 1993, 10:00 hrs. An accredited cheque or bank guarantee of JD 10,000 should be submitted with offers. Offers submitted by sealed envelope and offers which do not meet above conditions will not be considered.

Dr. Dureid Mahasneh  
Director General

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday opens a seminar entitled "Towards a National Strategy on Women in Jordan"

## Princess Basma urges more women's involvement in socio-economic life

AMMAN (Petra) — "Current circumstances facing Jordan and the major challenges looming ahead require that we reconsider our priorities in all sectors, particularly in matters of concern to women," said Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday.

In opening a seminar entitled "Towards a National Strategy on Women in Jordan," the Princess called for further involvement of women in all aspects of social and economic life.

Those women who are known to be deeply concerned over public issues and women's affairs should be involved in a positive and constructive dialogue to promote and enrich the Jordanian national strategy on women which came into being last year, said the Princess.

She added that this and other efforts are required to genuinely represent women with different affiliations and various political orientations and enable them to express and attain their aspirations.

Jordanian women have an important role to play in the current stage, but this role should be based on sound and correct understanding of the principles of Islam and should also aim at meeting national aspirations.

Princess Basma stressed. She said the National Committee on Women's Affairs (NCWA) ought to work out a defined and applicable programme and should suggest a special mechanism for its implementation.

The NCWA, the Princess added, requires backing from various women's sectors so that it can contribute more effectively towards serving the nation's causes and interests.

Echoing Princess Basma's views, Upper House of Parliament member Ahmad Obeidat called for increased women's participation in public affairs.

In his address to the seminar, Mr. Obeidat said the holy Koran underlined the importance of women in society and advocated women's sharing with men in trade, agriculture, vocational training and all aspects of public life.

It is therefore unreasonable to see women's potential lying idle in Arab and Islamic societies in an age of science and technology, Mr. Obeidat stressed.

Jordanian women's role in socio-economic development was advocated by the National Charter, which called for involving women in national development programmes, he said.

The senator called on planners and decision-makers to take into consideration the effective role of women in all matters of concern to the Jordanian society.

At the seminar, Taber Hikmat, a noted lawyer, submitted a working paper tackling the legal and political dimensions of women's involvement in public life and women's political rights.

Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Masri presented a working paper noting that women's participation in economic affairs was relatively low.

The paper said there exists a high level of unemployment among Jordanian women, reaching 34.4 per cent of the total work force.

## Free zone group heads for Damascus talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Free Zones Corporation (JFZC) hopes to play a key role at business conference in Damascus in order to boost foreign investments in free zones in Aqaba and Zarqa, according to JFZC Director General Fahal Oudah.

Speaking shortly before heading for the conference opening Sunday, Mr. Oudah said the Jordanian delegation will hold direct talks with the participating businessmen from other Arab states and provide them with information and literature on the free zone activities and investments.

The delegation, which groups businessmen and representatives of the JFZC, the Jordanian private and public sectors and the Chambers of Industry and Trade, will also explain the various facilities offered to investors in Jordan.

The three-day meeting, entitled "Arab Investments and the Challenges of the 1990's," aims to open the door for businessmen and investors from the Arab World to study means of using their capital within the Arab region and stem the flow of Arab capital to foreign countries, Mr. Oudah explained.

## Women's union chief promises changes

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The President of the Women's Union in Jordan (WUJ), Asma Khader, Sunday promised substantial changes in the union's policy and infrastructure to upgrade women's status in the country.

In the first press conference held after the union's elections last month, Mrs. Khader said the union seeks, at present, to restore to the women's movement its dignity and honourable status after the difficult stages the union has passed through since its establishment in 1974.

She said that the union had decided to re-issue "Al Ra'eda" magazine (which was suspended in the 1980s) and is seeking other headquarters that would meet the union's basic needs and projects. Its activities, she said, will aim mainly at enhancing women's status, and its seminars will be directed at informing women of their rights and the means used to obtain them.

"We won't be able to have a direct participation in political action," she said in response to a question on the union's participation in the next parliamentary elections. But, she maintained "we will raise public awareness of democracy and human rights through the democratisation of the union itself and through informing women of their political rights."

The WUJ president, who is a member of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights as well as Amnesty International, pointed out that a committee charged with promoting human rights has already been formed, among various others in the union, as part of their information strategy. Others include a cultural, information, support for the intifada and a financial committee.

As part of her strategy towards innovation and change, Mrs. Khader said that several amendments have to be introduced to the union's current interior regulations. The proposals, which will be presented by WUJ's judicial committee, will be endorsed by the founding committee, she explained.

The women movement suffered major setbacks in the 1970s and 1980s that influenced its actions and accomplishments, observers say.

The WUJ was dissolved in 1980 and was replaced by the GWU. WUJ resumed its functions in 1989 with the restoration of parliamentary life. Both unions now represent women in Jordan; WUJ representing independent women, and GWU accepts only members of women's societies.

Mrs. Khader announced that the union will attempt to gain membership in the General Women's Union (GWU).

"We head towards cooperation with all institutions that are concerned with women's issues," she said. But "none of them has the right to claim that it is the sole representative of women in Jordan," she stressed.

The WUJ elections last month were a testimony to the radical change that occurred inside the union, Mrs. Khader said.

Membership in WUJ's administration committee, originally planned to be achieved through acclamation, at the end were achieved through proper elections and produced an unexpected result. Asma Khader replaced Da'ad Ma'ath who had been the president for almost 20 years. Equal representation of all political streams in WUJ's administration committee, as would have resulted through acclamation, was not achieved, she said.

The 11-member administrative committee includes: Nadia Shamroukh, Maysar Sa'di, Kawthar Arar, Aminah Dabbour, Hikmat Halasa, Sabah Abu Hudain, Da'ad Ma'ath, Laila Naffa, Yveline Atrash, and Eugeny Haddan.

According to Mrs. Khader WUJ's resorting to election instead of acclamation and the results of elections "showed that the general committee heads towards renewal and change in leadership."

## Public debate continues over amending of election law

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Parliament deputies Sunday insisted that the issuance of any temporary law without its passing through the legislature is unconstitutional, and the leader of the Communist Party called on the government to clarify its real intentions regarding the amendment of the current election law.

Representing various political streams, three deputies, Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Hammam Sa'ed and Hussein Mjalli, along with Secretary General of the Jordanian Communist Party Yacoub Zayadin expressed their discontent over the numerous gaps in the current elections law in a conference at the Professional Union Complex. They also called on the public and the media to reject a temporary (election) law that may be issued by the government.

The speakers agreed that such a step (issuing a temporary law) if adopted by the government would be "unconstitutional," and asked that in case such a step was taken that Parliament be convened in an extraordinary session to discuss the matter "since it is the legitimate representative of the majority."

"Only through constitutional

channels is a constitutional right acquired," said deputy Rawabdeh, a staunch opponent of any amendment. "The temporary law is issued only in cases of earthquakes, wars and major crises when the assembly of deputies is nearly impossible."

Speakers at the conference, who agreed on the necessity to convene the Parliament in order to discuss the main points of the law and proposed amendments to be taken there of, differed however over the best model to be adopted.

Deputy Mjalli maintained that when the current election law was adopted, considerations of equality among citizens at all levels had been taken into account.

But deputy Rawabdeh said the "equality principle" is relative. He went on to criticise, as deputy Mjalli did, the various proposals and forms of a future law.

The one-man-one-vote law, for example, Mr. Rawabdeh said, can be applied at a later stage when political parties gain experience and popularity and become a natural feature in the public and political life of Jordan.

Still, Hammam Sa'ed from the Muslim Brotherhood said that any discussion of the law and the form it should take should be carried out in Parliament. He

asked for popular rejection of any, solely government endorsed law, saying that the issuance of a temporary law while Parliament was in recess "is a disgrace to our democratic process."

When the conference turned to discussing a Parliament seat quota for women, a debate was spurred, not only among the speakers but also among participants who insisted on knowing deputy Sa'ed's opinion on the quota system and the presence of women in Parliament.

Dr. Sa'ed said he rejects the quota system and that he believed that women had access to education for a long time and were politically more aware than their male counterparts.

"Not to women only, but we reject the quota system to all other sects and groups," he said. "Women have participated in the elections and were the ones who decided who to elect."

Mr. Zayadin, who called for a quota for women in his speech several times, said that since people are not politically aware at this stage and the democratic process was still in its beginnings, a quota for women has to be introduced, otherwise "women will be prevented from one of their basic rights: To be represented in Parliament and be heard."

## Environmental protection efforts outlined at U.N.-sponsored meeting

NAIROBI (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat Sunday addressed a United Nations sponsored meeting here outlining Jordan's endeavours and activities in protecting the environment and conserving nature.

In his address to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 17th board meeting.

Dr. Tubeishat said Jordan was among the first group of nations to endorse resolutions and international conferences and put into force international agreements regarding the protection of the environment.

He added that the country prepared a national programme for the 21st century and has worked out plans that are considered complementary to sustainable development.

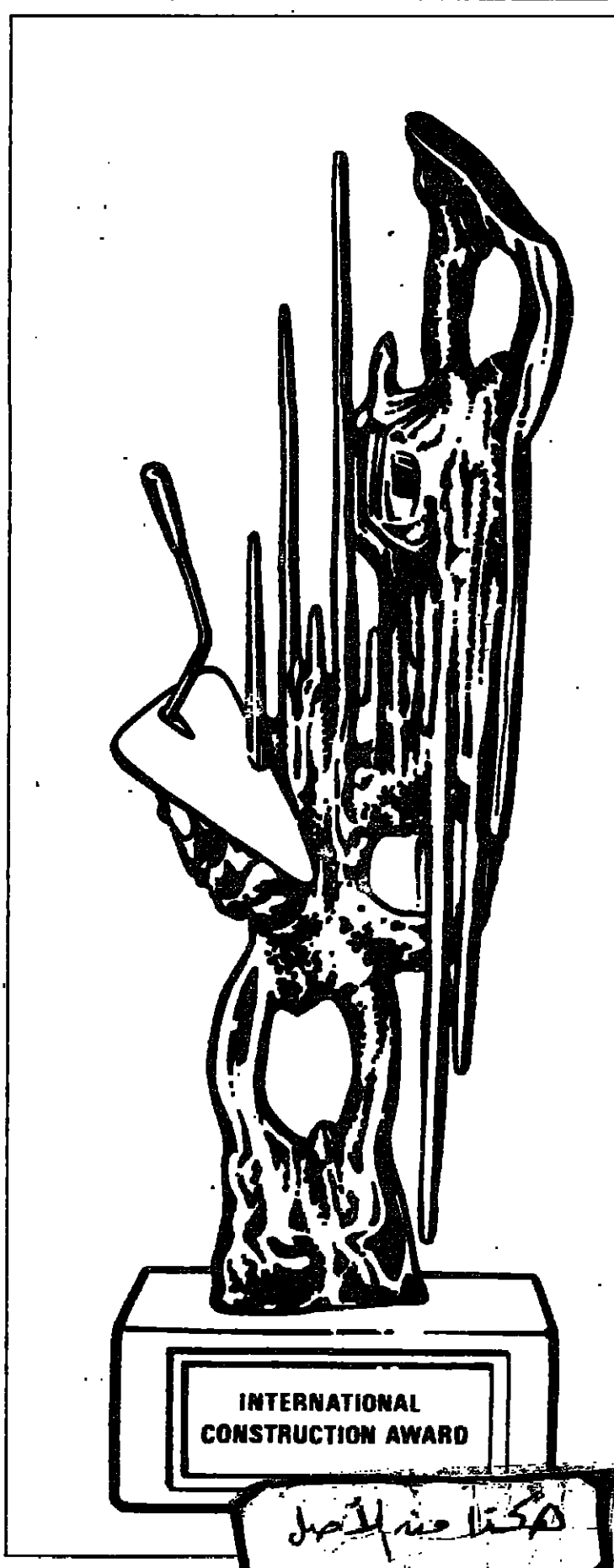
Jordan has established several wild life and natural reserves and has been closely cooperating with regional and international organisations concerned with environmental protection, noted the minister, emphasising that the Kingdom's concern for the environment has assumed priority in its political and socio-economic activities.

The Nairobi meeting is discussing the environment and its close relation to economic development, particularly in the third world.

Referring to a UNEP report about the general environmental conditions of the world in 1992, the minister noted that the report drew a grim picture of the situation and underlined that the world should find solutions to environment-related problems as a pre-requisite for attaining sustainable development in the next century.



Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat



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## Aid to solve disputes

AT A TIME when the peace process is fast reaching critical mass after the deadlock of the ninth round of bilateral talks, there is an added sense of urgency to the Palestinian request for emergency and long-term economic support. "I call economic development the support system for the peace process," declared Saeb Erekat, vice-chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks. "How can you negotiate, after all, when the economic atmosphere in the occupied territories is so poor?"

This assessment sums up the dire situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which, if it continues to be neglected by the world, will only create a climate that is most hostile to the continuation of the peace negotiations between Israel and the various Arab parties. We support the thesis that the international community, beginning with the rich Arab states, needs to invest in the peace process, first of all by supporting economically the well-being of the Palestinians under occupation.

The U.S. has pledged some \$14 million to the economy of the occupied territories. The European Economic Community (EEC) has also offered emergency- and short-term aid to the Palestinians in a bid to improve their living conditions and help make them more amenable to various conceptions of peace.

After a quarter of a century of occupation and in the wake of Israel's decision to seal off the West Bank and Gaza Strip more than six weeks ago, the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinians have gone from bad to worse. Under such circumstances, the occupied territories have become an even bigger breeding ground for extremism accentuated by frustration over the lack of any meaningful progress in the peace talks and exacerbated by poverty, deprivation and unemployment. Such a sorry state of affairs is a potent prescription for violent strife and desperate acts.

The Arab Gulf states should be in the forefront of the comity of nations supporting the economy of the Palestinians by investing in their territories on a scale that would really make a difference to the state of mind and well-being of the people. The industrial countries of the north must likewise strive to keep peace hopes alive by transferring funds and technology to the occupied territories. As a matter of fact, the entire world has a stake in the efforts to attain peace in the Middle East and this it can help achieve by improving dramatically the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian homeland. Even without Palestinian leadership pleading for such support, it should be self-evident that the aid the people of the occupied territories may not receive can make or break the peace process.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

YU. AL SHAAB daily Sunday questioned the wisdom behind efforts to convene a 10th session of Middle East peace talks, arguing that in light of Israel's attitude nothing can be achieved in coming meetings. Now that the ninth session has ended in total fiasco, due to Israel's continued intransigence and Washington's disregard of its own pledges, there can be no need for a 10th session, said the paper. Instead of playing the role of full partner helping the Arabs and the Israelis to reach agreement, the U.S. played a role in aborting the talks by strongly siding by Israel in its attitude, stressed the paper. It said that the U.S. administration bears the full blame for the aborted session since it pledged on its own promises and encouraged Israel to go ahead with its inhuman practices against the Palestinians and to adhere to its intransigent stand on the U.N. resolutions. One really wonders why the U.S. administration is calling for yet another round at a time when it realises that it has played an instrumental role in aborting the talks and in providing cover for Israel's policies, continued the daily. The paper said there can be no reasonable ground on which the Arabs can meet with the Israelis and there is no logic in responding to a call for another round which is also bound to achieve nothing.

COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that the current pressure applied by the United States and its allies on the Arab Nation is only intended to force them to abandon their rights and submit to the Zionist wishes and desires. Salah Jarrar said that pressure is manifested by the current siege on Iraq, Jordan, Palestinians and the Libyans. The blockade imposed on these Arab states has been going on before, during and after the unsuccessful peace negotiations in Washington, coinciding also with the continued Israeli air raids on South Lebanon and its inhuman practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands, said the writer. These crimes committed by the enemies of the Arab World are regarded as one form of pressure exercised on Arab leaders in order to force them to accept Israel's policies for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, added the writer. The lesson that the Arabs ought to learn from these crimes and this attitude, he said, is clear: that the restoration of Arab rights can come only through an honourable peace or through war. He said that as long as this is the case, the Arabs could not give up their national pride and succumb to Israel's pressure. He stressed, should by no means sacrifice their dignity and their rights at the negotiating table.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

## U.N.'s bizarre ways Where does world stand on Bosnia?

Apparently United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali has not read lately the charter of the organisation that he heads. This much became obvious when he declared, in the wake of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's failure to convince his nation's closest western allies to accept a more forceful action against Serbia, that the United Nations should continue to pursue a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Dr. Ghali came out with this bizarre assessment in spite of the passage of more than one year of Serbian atrocities, acts of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council, whose course of action the secretary general tries hard to influence, is beginning to look silly after postponing promised action against Serbian forces for the umpteenth time. In the process, its prestige has eroded and its credibility is being questioned.

It is hard to know what went through the mind of Dr. Ghali when he prescribed perpetual pursuit of a peaceful settlement of the Serb-Bosnian conflict after more than one year of genocide and war crimes. It is indeed perplexing that the head of the international organisation has yet to be shocked enough by the Serbs' atrocities to give up on the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the crisis there, especially after countless efforts were invested in that direction to no avail. Every time the world thought that the time had come for meaningful action in rump Yugoslavia, another excuse was concocted to legitimise additional procrastination. Meanwhile, thousands of more people have been killed, wounded or subjected to horrific atrocities.

I bring to the attention of Dr. Ghali the following submissions based on the very charter that he invokes to condone non-effective action against the Serbs. It is true that Article 33 of the U.N. Charter stipulates that "the parties to any dispute, the continuation of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement..." and so on. But surely Dr. Ghali does not see this article under Chapter VI of the charter as applicable to the Bosnian situation. The kind of genocide and war crimes that the

Serbs have been committing against their neighbours is not exactly a "dispute," that calls for just a peaceful settlement! We are not talking here about a civil war between warring factions. We are talking about a war crimes machine that took the shape of untold atrocities, systematic rape and torture of thousands of girls and women and the mass execution of thousands of innocent civilians. Does the U.N. secretary general and like-minded people still believe that a peaceful solution is the most appropriate?

No, Dr. Ghali, it is neither appropriate nor sensible or fair to even suggest such a course. I invite Dr. Ghali and the representatives of Moscow and Paris at the Security Council to get acquainted again with Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. Article 39 states that the "Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security." The important lines appear in Article 42 and they read as follows: "Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations."

If we can only convince the head of the international organisation that all efforts exerted under Article 41 (measures not involving the use of force) to stop the Serbian atrocities have failed miserably, maybe he can be talked into accepting the inevitability of the deployment of force. More than fifteen months have passed, Dr. Ghali, without the sort of means that you are still proposing yielding any results. How much longer do you want the people of Bosnia to suffer before the rest of mankind sitting comfortably on soft sofas can be convinced to move a finger? I say that time is much overdue for every additional delay will take an even heavier toll on the defenceless civilians in war-torn Bosnia.



## Sudanese perish amid international efforts to halt 10-year war

By Pauline Jelinek  
The Associated Press

KONGOR, Sudan — Dozens of starving and dazed children wait for milk and a biscuit at a refugee centre near this war-torn town. Kilometres away, a rebel commander threatens to shoot down any relief plane carrying food to a rival tribe.

Meanwhile, in foreign capitals, Sudanese men in suits negotiate fitfully at meetings that no one believes will end the misery soon.

Diplomats and other officials have referred to Sudan's civil war as a "human catastrophe," calling it "appalling" and a "hell on earth." An estimated 4 million of its 27 million people are said to be facing starvation, disease, homelessness or terrorising warfare — while at the mercy of increasingly erratic fighting forces.

The civil war in Africa's largest country began in 1983, when black Christians and animists of the south rose up against the Islamic fundamentalist government in the Arab north.

The war started as a fight for religious, economic and political rights for the southerners, who are mostly nomadic herders. But the rebel movement split in late 1991, and many observers believe the war has degenerated into a tribal power struggle of rebel against rebel.

Instead of fighting the government, rebels burn and pillage each other's villages, steal each other's cattle and destroy or loot international aid compounds set up in rival territory.

"They have lost track of the war...the objective," Barry Wanji, a rebel commander, said at a news conference in early May in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. "It is personal pride, personal interest that is guiding them. The guns we are using to kill ourselves should have only been pointed against the enemy."

But in the next breath he announced that he and six other commanders were breaking away

from a rebel "unity coalition" formed only a month earlier and would create yet another rebel fighting force.

If they succeed, they will join at least two existing rebel factions, the Sudanese Army and several roaming Arab and tribal militias already creating chaos in southern Sudan, an area more than twice the size of France.

In the last 10 years, up to 1 million people have been killed by fighting, starvation and the many diseases that easily ravage a body weakened by hunger, relief workers say.

Two million are said to be homeless, and several million more have at one time or another been pushed from their homes and farming and grazing lands by fighting. Some have moved three and four times. Floods in some

areas and drought in others have added to the manmade devastation.

Over the years, the government and rebels have hampered relief efforts, but only in recent months have combatants launched outright attacks on aid workers.

At the end of September, rebels of the John Garang faction, largely of the Dinka tribe, killed three relief workers and a journalist, the United Nations believes. In late March, another Garang fighter was stopped at the last moment from shooting a U.N. worker in an area controlled by the Riek Machar rebel group, largely from the Nuer tribe.

Though Col. Garang announced a unilateral ceasefire with the government in mid-

March, he began an offensive just two weeks later against the breakaway Machar faction. Fighting spread through several towns that U.N. agencies said were among the most hard-hit by famine, an area relief workers call "the hunger triangle."

Col. Garang's troops destroyed new feeding centres, and the unrest disrupted U.N. aid flights to six of the 23 sites to which it flies in food. Officials estimated thousands of severely malnourished people died and thousands more were forced to flee to the bush, where there is no food.

"But we're not giving up, we're not going away," said Rob Hadley, Nairobi spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund, which coordinates Sudan relief efforts with the world food programme and private agencies. "We're going to be back in all of these places that we've pulled out of and we are going to take care of those people."

Efforts to protect relief operations are under way but moving slowly. Several countries and international organisations are pushing to persuade all sides to end the war — or at least persuade the rebels to honour a December pact aimed at protecting relief work.

In the Nigerian capital, Abuja, the Sudanese government and Col. Garang faction have resumed peace talks that had been stalled for several months. But international observers are not holding out great hope for the talks.

Officials from the United States, Britain and other nations say international intervention — perhaps through the U.N. Security Council — may become necessary.

But with the United Nations already mounting peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Yugoslavia and Cambodia, no one has said what that intervention might be.

## Out of sight, out of mind

By Richard Harwood

ONE OF the first laws of American journalism is that we follow the flag and the guns. That gets us into a lot of places we had never heard of before — Bosnia being the latest example — and gets us out of them quickly once the bodies are buried and the shooting stops.

I was reminded of this by a Wall Street Journal editorial on Nicaragua.

Nicaragua? I'd forgotten all about the place. A few years ago, the press was obsessed with the story. The fate of Western Civilisation, not to mention the Soul of America and the future of our political parties, was said to hang in the balance.

Today ex-Sandinistas live in hilltop mansions surrounded by stolen works of art, like the Somocestas they displaced. We know little about what is going on because the press has other fish to fry. Nicaragua, the foreign editor of the Journal observes, has "sunk into the obscurity it so richly deserves."

It was almost 10 years ago that 241 U.S. servicemen, mostly Marines, died in a terrorist bomb attack on their barracks in Beirut. Journalists came from all over the world to watch the ethnic cleansing among Christians, Sunnis, Shiites, Druze, Israelis, Frenchmen, Americans and Syrians.

The story gave us daily pictures and headlines for the front page and daily tops for the evening news. We discovered Hizbollah.

I cannot now recall clearly what great strategic interests drew us into that place, although it was a helluva story while it lasted. I don't know what they say on Memorial Day at the gravesides of those Marines. The press has abandoned the place. So have many of the diplomats who once made (or lost) their reputations there. The Israelis continue to muck around in the south and drop the occasional bomb in the north, but if multitudes in the West care, they keep it to themselves.

The 10th anniversary of the liberation of Grenada also will be observed this year, but I doubt we will hear much about it. It didn't last long enough to create any journalistic legends.

The great Panamanian war of 1989 is still fresh in some memories, but not many. Plane loads of journalists descended out of the skies as vultures seek carrion and departed as quickly when the guns fell silent. I couldn't for the

life of me recite the name of Gen. Noriega's successor.

The Gulf war is not an essentially different story. The journalistic horde with its technicians and hangers-on was immoderate, filling up every decent hotel in Doha and Riyadh. The estimates run up to nearly 2,000, a number far in excess of the American press corps assigned to the coverage of World War II. Some of the larger papers have continued to monitor postwar events in the Gulf and find some meaning for it all. But for the press in general, the Gulf war is ancient history.

"Journalists have been chasing after wars for two centuries. They do good work. But their attention span is limited, and there are rarely happy endings to the tale."

That is also true of Somalia. When U.S. Marines and Seals landed last December to impose law and order on the natives, they were met at the beaches by hundreds of cameramen and reporters in freshly purchased safari suits. Somalia is still Somalia, and people will continue to starve. But the press corps, except for the permanent African hands, is back on the police and statehouse beats in a hundred or more American towns.

Afghanistan, where Dan Rather made a dramatic appearance in native garb some years ago, also has been abandoned with no indication of how that story will end. But if the Clintons dispatch U.S. forces to Bosnia or other precincts of the "former Yugoslavia," the anchors will return to foreign soil and the press corps immediately will double, triple or quadruple in size.

Journalists have been chasing after wars for two centuries. They do good work. But their attention span is limited, and there are rarely happy endings to the tale — The Washington Post.

## LETTERS

### No more memorials!

The following letter, by Jan Singleton, a resident of Amman, was addressed to Time magazine columnist Charles Krauthammer in reply to the latter's article, "Holocaust: memory and resolve," that appeared in the magazine's May 3, 1993 issue. In the article, which was written to coincide with the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington last month, Krauthammer reviewed the history of persecution of the Jewish people and contended that Israel was the guardian of Jewish history. He concluded that "Israel today lives under the specter of annihilation" by Saddam Hussein and Muslim fundamentalists:

I congratulate you on your essay about the holocaust (Time, May 3, 1993); it evoked the feelings of sorrow which I am sure you intended. But it also evoked feelings of dismay rather than support.

I do not wish to take issue with the holocaust itself but rather with your one-sided phraseology, which, may I add, tends to betray a poverty of your own language. I have heard too often the arguments against anti-Semitism and for the perpetual need for self-defense; they are beginning to wear thin. I have sympathised with the plight of the Jews and the struggle for a national homeland but what I did not expect was that the rights of the Jews would supersede the rights of another Semite race, people who have lived side by side with the Jews for thousands of years and people who, for the last four decades, have witnessed their children and grand-children being subjected to the worst kind of human excesses, no less diabolical than those carried out by the Nazis: persecution on a daily basis, torture, incarceration and murder. World War II lasted for six years; the Zionist tyranny perpetrated on the people of Gaza, Golan, West Bank, Jerusalem and South Lebanon has been raging for 45 years. And the irony here is that the real enemy of the Jews was the Europeans, not the Semites, i.e. the Arabs.

If the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and elsewhere is so full of lessons, why is it that man never learns? Unless we heed the lessons of the past, very soon we shall see the emergence of another memorial, but dedicated to the Palestinians who fell victim to Israeli genocide. You talk about Hitler as if he had a world-wide following. Nazism never reached the shores of the Middle East — that tyranny was purely European — nor does he have any successors here, only people defending their rights to live in peace and security as a direct result of Zionist intransigence. Zionists deliberately repeated the mistakes of the past for political advantage and took their own people down with them. A people once renowned for their intellect and cultural integrity, Jews now have to live with the stigma of state-terrorism and barbarism. Israel's ultimate destruction may come not from the perceived threat of a nuclear attack or a battery of poison-gas Scuds but from its refusal to learn from the past. The real test is not "to oppose a real set of (perceived) enemies that complete the Nazi project" as you say, but whether one is prepared to help defend all people, Jews and Palestinians alike, against the destroyers of today, and to confront the real set of enemies from within so that evil can no longer beget evil in the name of human rights and self-defence.

The power of the pen is indeed more effective than the spoken word...and for that Mr. Krauthammer I hold you ultimately responsible for the well-being of the other Semites and their children who are being mutilated on a daily basis by the children of the survivors of Auschwitz.

Jan Singleton,  
P.O. Box 2206,  
Amman.

Jan Singleton  
P.O. Box 2206  
Amman



# Features

## Arab-Americans — a patchwork of assimilation, seclusion

By Mohammad Salam and Donna Abu Nasr  
The Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — The Mexican belly dancer gyrated out of sync with the Egyptian band. Women in long dresses and scarves sat next to others in miniskirts. Fried chicken and rigatoni filled in for traditional roast lamb and rice.

The cultural confusion at the wedding of Abir Hamdan, 18, and Khalil Berro, 22, Arab-Americans of Lebanese-Shiite descent, went unnoticed by most of the guests. But it set Abed Sabaa to shaking his head.

"Not right," he protested as men on the dance floor shook their hips while dancing the dabke. In this "foot banging" dance, men move their legs, hands, shoulders but never their hips. That was for women.

And worse, Mr. Sabaa said, "you don't serve American dishes to Arabs celebrating a wedding."

At weddings in southern Lebanon, where Mr. Sabaa's hometown of Tibnin is located, stuffed lamb known as "ouz" is served with grilled chicken, grilled lamb chops and triangular pastries stuffed with thyme, cheese and spinach.

Mr. Sabaa is typical of many of the 2.5 million Arab-descended people in the United States, who live in an Arabized subculture that borrows heavily from its American surroundings but has not been fully absorbed.

The tall, broad-shouldered Sabaa, 47, who manages an auto shop in Detroit, exhibits a bit of cultural confusion himself. He wears Levi's blue jeans, drives a 1992 Mercury that costs as much as a two-bedroom house in Tibnin and plays darts at his favourite hangout, the Palomar Bar. But, he says with a grin, "I still swear at people in Arabic whenever I'm upset."

A smaller, more militant pocket of conservative Arab Muslims lives apart, almost as a nation within a nation. Its participants rigorously guard against what they see as an onslaught of temptations offered by the liberal American society. The conservatives have opened their own schools, avoid their American neighbours and observe strict Islamic customs, including the ban on alcohol, the preparation of food according to Islamic law and the "covering" of women.

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At the Al Ghazaly School in Jersey City, N.J., in a neighbourhood known as "Little Egypt," students are taught that Darwin's theories deny the existence of God. In geography classes, they are told the nation labelled Israel on U.S.-made maps is Palestine.

"If students are sent to non-Muslim school, then this means we're handing over the responsibility of raising our children to non-believers who would leave their black fingerprints on the souls of our boys and girls," said the principal, Adnan Omran, whose school has 300 students ranging up to high school age.

All students wear spartan uniforms of navy blue and white, and girls must cover their heads with oversized white scarves at age 7. Women teachers also wear scarves and ankle-length dresses in accordance with Islamic custom that forbids public display of a woman's hair or figure.

Mr. Omran said the school's duty was to teach students to grow up as "good Muslims." He said that because of their upbringing there were no major disciplinary problems.

"It's the internal deterrent that we instill in the students that helps them fulfill their duties and

## UAE tries to keep dhow boating tradition afloat

By Christine Hauser  
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Sultan Al Mehairi, 99, climbed out of his chauffeur-driven car at sunset and hobbled over to his dhow, laid up at a boatyard, to run a hand along its curves.

He whispered a few words to the wooden boat but preferred that a visitor talk to his younger relative, Salem, about the traditional techniques of dhow building, threatened by the younger generation's taste for speedboats.

"I'm getting old," Sultan said. "But what I know about he (Salem) knows more, because he has taken from the old and the new."

Sultan and Salem Al Mehairi are descended from generations of boat builders in Buteen, a coastal enclave in the United Arab Emirates capital.

For centuries Buteen's boatyards have built the wooden dhows of eastern traders in the Gulf.

British archaeologists working on Abu Dhabi's islands have uncovered flint chips and pottery which they say point to a maritime trade corridor going back 7,000 years.

Historians cannot say precisely when dhows first appeared in the Gulf but they have played a key role in the region's ancient trade and in pearl diving and fishing.

Now the boat-making tradition is threatened as never before by

the affluence that has come with oil wealth.

"Now oil has come to the country," Salem said. "Young people in the old times were with their fathers. Now the experience of old men will be forgotten."

In a push to forestall the death of a long tradition, UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan in April pledged to sponsor more traditional boat races.

The move is part of a drive to lure UAE youth, who opt for flashy powerboats and jet skis instead of rounds of mint tea on the tranquil decks of a dhow making its stately way at 12 knots.

Sheikh Zaid will give away luxury cars and thousands of dirhams as prizes for races featuring specially built dhows turned out by dhow builders, including wooden boats with huge billowing sails and slender, cigar-shaped row-boats seating one hundred oarsmen.

"A long time ago people were diving for pearls, fishing and travelling in the dhows. Now we have airplanes and shipping," Salem said. "The main point is for people to go back to the old traditions of 100 years ago."

Most Gulf trading boats have a distinctive pointed bow which swells into a round underbelly for riding waves. Some archaeologists say their square stern was fashioned after the galleons manned by 16th century Portuguese sailors.

In the old days the wooden boats were built with planks of Indian teak and plugs of cotton steeped in fish oil. As supplies of teak became scarce boatmen turned to steel and fibreglass.

"But besides the steel and electric drills, we still do the design the old-fashioned way," Salem said.

A 35-metre-long luxury dhow commissioned at a minimum cost of 500,000 dirhams (\$136,000), quickly rising to double or triple that amount, will sport air conditioning and varnished interiors.

But 50,000-dirham boats destined to serve as the workhorses of the Gulf for Iranian and Arab traders are closer to the rugged versions of the constructors' seafaring ancestors.

An emirates industrial bank study in April said cheaper fibreglass vessels were replacing wooden boats at dhow building yards in the seven UAE emirates.

"Boat-building... has hitherto revolved around the traditional hand-crafted wooden boat," the study said.

"Wooden boats take rather long to build, the number of craftsmen for the traditional boats is limited, and the boats

require constant and sometimes expensive maintenance. The lure of modernity is also eroding the trade.

"My son likes to make speed-boats," said Mohammad Bu Haroon, 55, from one of the UAE's oldest dhow-building families. "But what I'm doing is art."



GULF DHOWS: Rare avis or... The trade of building wooden boats is slowly dying faced with competition from fiberglass speed boats (File photo)

## Storm in a Coke glass over publication of 'secret' recipe

By Richard Walker  
Reuters

ATLANTA — The author of an "unauthorised" history of Coca-Cola has found himself in a dispute with the company over whether his book contains the closely guarded secret recipe of the world's most famous soft drink.

Former librarian Mark Pendergast — whose "For God, Country and Coca-Cola" went on sale two weeks ago — says an archivist let him copy a century-old formula of Coke inventor John Pemberton during one of many visits to corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

Coca-Cola's attempts to keep the recipe secret are legendary. It pulled out of India in 1977 rather than divulge it to the government.

Mr. Pendergast writes that he was allowed to copy what appears to be the "original formula" from the tattered remains of Mr. Pemberton's records.

Among the ingredients listed are fluid extract of coca leaves, caffeine, vanilla extract, lime juice, citric acid, alcohol and various natural flavours including orange oil, lemon oil, nutmeg, cinnamon and coriander.

Coca-Cola has responded by dismissing Mr. Pendergast's claims and calling his book "The latest in a long line of previous, unsuccessful attempts to reveal a 107-year-old mystery. The secret formula and process of manufacture remain a secret."

The 556-page book "falls short of being a totally truthful effort," the company said in a statement.

Coca-Cola said it gave Mr. Pendergast the same access to corporate records and files that it would give "any serious researcher."

Mr. Pendergast told Reuters he saw the row over Coke's secret formula as a storm in a teacup.

Over the years, he said, Coca-Cola officials had made changes to the formula, including removing traces of cocaine in 1903, reducing caffeine and replacing sugar with corn sweetener.

The biggest controversy occurred in 1985 when Chairman Roberto Goizueta unveiled a sweeter "new Coke" to such public outrage in the United States that the company was compelled to bring back the old formula as "Coke classic."

The latest row, Mr. Pendergast

said, should not overshadow his effort to chronicle how "a patent medicine invented in the southern United States as a brain tonic and aphrodisiac has grown into the world's most popular consumer product."

Coke's pioneering mass marketing has influenced business, culture and politics worldwide, the book says.

So pervasive is the business empire that the Atlanta-based company makes more money in Japan than in the United States and its products account for nearly half of the world soft drinks market.

Harvard-educated Pendergast, who grew up in Atlanta, said he had a hard time persuading publishers to buy his idea because his mixture of corporate history and Coke's interaction with American and global culture wasn't seen as "a hard enough business book."

Publisher Charles Scribner's has had such success with the book that a Commonwealth edition will be published this year and Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Portuguese versions are planned.



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# Survey finds injuries cost U.S. employers \$101 billion annually

WASHINGTON (AP) — Injuries on and off the job cost American employers more than \$181 billion a year — including \$54.8 billion for highway crashes, a business group has said.

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) said its report for the first time documents the enormous cost to businesses of paying for workers' injuries, many of them preventable.

The group focused on highway accidents, saying there is a need for year-round employer-sponsored safety programmes to encourage workers to wear safety belts and drive carefully.

"Traffic safety programmes in American workplaces would save all of us — employers, employees, our families and consumers — a lot of money," Gloria Craven, an organisation official, said at a news conference.

Mike Brownlee, associate administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), said the costs associated with death and injury to the American worker account for three per cent of the nation's gross national product each year.

"Stated another way, eliminating injuries could lower the price of goods and services by three per cent," he said.

The NHTSA paid for the NETS report, and Mr. Brownlee attended the news conference.

William Snyder, head of GEICO Corp., said a typical serious car crash can cost an employer \$100,000 for one worker — including medical payments, wages for the injured employee's replacement and lost productivity.

## Russia-Armenia debt deal to serve as model

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia signed an agreement with Russia Saturday on repaying debts worth more than \$40 million, setting a pattern which Moscow wants other former Soviet republics to follow, Interfax News Agency said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Armenian counterpart Grant Bagratyan signed the agreement, which converts a loan between the two central banks into an inter-government loan which Armenia will repay between 1996 and 2000.

The agency said Armenia had received loans of 12 billion roubles (\$13.5 million at the current rate) and 30 million from the Russian Central Bank last year.

Interfax quoted Vladimir Mashits, head of Russia's State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States, as saying Moscow had hardened its position and now insisted that former Soviet debtor-republics begin repaying their loans in 1994.

But it realised some republics were not able to pay, and so had met their requests for postponement.

Mr. Mashits said Russia would sign similar agreements with all former Soviet republics which had received Russian Central Bank loans in 1992. He added that those which refused to promise early loan repayment would receive no more loans this year.

The agency said Mr. Chernomyrdin signed a similar agreement with Tajikistan's Prime Minister Abdul Malik Abdullajonov, by which the Central Asian state would start repaying its 16 billion rouble (\$18 million) debt for 1992 in 1994.

## Tens of thousands of Canadians protest Ottawa's economic policy

OTTAWA (APF) — Tens of thousands of protesters Saturday chanted and rallied here against government economic policies they blame for Canada's rising unemployment rate.

"Jobs now" protesters shouted at the peaceful rally at Parliament Hill, the largest demonstration in Canada since 1981. The event was organised by the Labour Council of Canada, a coalition of nearly 100 major unions.

The jobsless rate has been hovering at about 11 per cent. The protest came just weeks ahead of the ruling Progressive Conservative Party's selection of a candidate to succeed Prime Minister Brian Mulroney until general elections later this year.

Fernand Daoust, the president of the Quebec Workers' Federation, said that while Mr. Mulroney's government has been obsessed by trying to shrink the federal deficit, "the workers' obsession is creating jobs."

Bob White, head of the Labour Council, urged the crowd to remember at the polls the damage joblessness has done to Canada.

Many Canadians put the bulk of the blame squarely on the free trade agreement Canada entered into with the United States in January 1989.

On Friday, protesters set up a "free-trade cemetery" within view of parliament with tombstones representing what they said were the businesses closed and the 350,000 jobs lost since the bilateral trade pact came into effect.

Police estimated Saturday's crowd at 60,000, while organisers put the number at 100,000.

In 1981, some 100,000 people protested in Ottawa against an interest rate increase by the Bank of Canada.

productivity. If the business's profit margin is 10 per cent, he said, the accident consumes profits on \$1 million in sales.

"A million dollars in sales to pay for one motor vehicle crash injury," he said. "We experience 320,000 of those injuries annually."

Another report by an advocacy group has found that nearly one out of every three Americans between 16 and 19 in the work force is unemployed and has given up looking for a job or is forced to work part-time despite wanting a full-time job.

Young people in school are not considered part of the labour force, though many also hold jobs.

"The prospects of getting a job for a young person are getting worse," according to Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), which is active in labour causes.

"While most youth are finding it difficult to get and keep a job, if you are young and African-American or Hispanic and live in a big city, it is close to impossible," the report emphasised.

The study, based on U.S. government data, found youth between ages 16 and 19 had an unemployment rate of 19.5 per cent in March. This was almost three times the national unemployment rate of seven per cent.

For African-American youths, almost 45 per cent were unemployed in March, according to ADA. But, it said, the "real jobless" rate for youth is worse.

"Nearly one out of three teenagers (16-19) is unemployed, has given up looking for a job or to settle for a part-time job even though full-time work is needed," the report said. "The 'real jobless' rate for teenagers is almost 35 per cent."

For black youths, the ADA said the "real" jobless rate is more than 80 per cent.

## China to displace 10m 'surplus' workers

BEIJING (APF) — The Chinese government will expand unemployment insurance, which has only provided benefits to 650,000 laid-off workers.

The measures included expansion of trial unemployment insurance, which has only provided benefits to 650,000 laid-off workers.

Chinese state firms employ 77 million people and about one seventh of them were unnecessary, Mr. Zhu said. The authorities have so far only allowed companies to let workers go gradually to prevent social unrest.

"As the number of unemployed grows, it is more difficult for them to find jobs," the vice minister was quoted as saying.

Only 40 per cent of jobless were able to find new employment last year, compared with 60 per cent in 1991, the reports said without specifying the number of unemployed people in China.

"State-owned enterprises, most of them overstaffed, have found it hard to resettle their surplus workers because of no specific policies and a lack of language," the English-language China Daily said.

Mr. Zhu called on companies to encourage laid-off employees to start their own businesses or to look for work in the service sector.

The vice minister pledged state assistance in handling the excess worker problem and stressed re-training and respect for the legal interests of women and aged workers in the course of reform.

## Botswana eyes reform to become 'Singapore of southern Africa'

GABORONE (R) — Botswana is considering deep tax cuts and deregulation in a bid to stage a Pacific Rim-style economic boom while cutting dependence on diamonds.

"Botswana could become the Singapore of southern Africa — a regional service centre," Bank of Botswana Governor Quill Hermans said in a recent interview with Reuters.

He said Botswana, with its large foreign exchange reserves and stable political climate, was uniquely placed to become a major regional financial services centre.

Botswana, which has forecast a \$250 million budget deficit for fiscal 1993/94, was not dependent on non-mining taxes and the gains would far outweigh the relatively small amount of money lost through deregulation.

"Non-mining tax is not a major source of income," said Mr. Hermans, adding that Botswana had \$4.0 billion in foreign exchange reserves which had been built up during the "bonanza years" in the international diamond market during the 1970s and 1980s.

"We could abolish personal income tax, and scrap corporate taxation with very little adverse effects on the economy and are studying aspects of this at the moment," he said.

Diamonds are the country's major export earner and mainstay of the economy, bringing in \$1.3 billion in fiscal 1992/93. But the worldwide recession and consequent decline in diamond sales have forced a major rethink in a government which has spent heavily on social welfare programmes in the past two decades.

Mr. Hermans said the decision by the De Beers diamond consortium to cut diamond purchases from associate companies by 25 per cent had reduced Botswana's export income by at least \$150 million a year and was a bitter blow.

"Our total diamond production is around 16 million carats a year, of which we are now stockpiling about 25 per cent in the hope that the market will improve," he said. "Our income is at the moment totally bound up with what happens to the diamond markets and what happens politically in our southern African neighbours, particularly South Africa."

He said if the "doomsday

## Norwegian budget has record deficit

OSLO (APF) — Norway's finance ministry has presented a revised 1993 budget, with a record deficit of 53.9 billion kroner (\$7.93 billion), up from a December forecast of 51.4 billion kroner (\$7.56 billion).

The deficit increase was mainly attributable to lower oil revenues, the ministry said. Oil income was expected to fall by two billion kroner.

Excluding revenues from North Sea oil and gas fields, the 1993 deficit was set at 77.1 billion kroner, against a December forecast of 76.6 billion kroner.

The ministry said that growth of gross domestic product (GDP) would fall to 0.8 per cent in 1993, down from 2.5 per cent the previous year. The December forecast was 1.0 per cent.

North Sea oil prices expected to average 127 kroner per barrel (\$18.7), the same as forecast in December.

The finance ministry said the state should begin selling its shares in Kreditkassen, Norway's second biggest commercial bank, in the autumn.

The total borrowing need for Norway would jump to 93.7 billion kroner in 1993, against 55.7 billion kroner the previous year. The December forecast was 88.2 billion kroner.

Finance Minister Sigbjørn Johnsen said that Norway would return to fixed exchange rates as soon as international circumstances permit.

Norway allowed the krone float against the European Currency Unit (ECU) on Dec. 10.

In December the government forecast four per cent growth for the traditional mainland industries, but the figure has now been reduced to one per cent for the whole of 1993.

The revised growth figure is based on the weak economic performance of Germany and the Nordic countries, Norway's most important trading partners.

Unemployment, currently running at five to six per cent, was expected to fall by 0.5 per cent in 1994.

### ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Japan Airlines to ask employees to retire voluntarily from 35

TOKYO (APF) — Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL) will ask employees aged 35-44 to retire voluntarily to cut labour costs, extending an early retirement programme that has applied to those over 45, officials have said. Japan's largest airline company will provide 50 per cent more in retirement benefits to employees who voluntarily quit after at least 10 years' service, the officials said.

Some 150 of the 7,000 employees at JAL, aged 35-44 are expected to apply to for the early retirement programme in June and July, they said. JAL is expected to post 50 billion yen (\$452 million) in pre-tax losses for fiscal 1992 that ended on March 31, reflecting a global slump in international flight business.

#### Norway's oil, gas reserves increase

OSLO (R) — Norway's oil and gas reserves grew last year despite the fact that west Europe's biggest oil producer was pumping at record levels, a report from the government-funded Petroleum Directorate has shown.

"From 1991 to 1992... growth in oil and gas reserves were larger than production. The increase in oil was 98.8 million standard cubic metres while gas has risen by 18.6 billion standard cubic metres," the directorate report said.

Norway now flows a record 2.4 million barrels oil per day and the report said production could continue at current levels for another 20 years. Gas production could go on at the current rate for another 115 years.

#### Nepal earns \$62.7m from tourism

KATHMANDU (APF) — Tourism in Nepal climbed 14.1 per cent in 1992 from 1991, an official of the ministry of tourism and civil aviation has said. He said 334,353 tourists visited Nepal last year, with Indians accounting for nearly one third of the total.

The next largest group was the British, followed by Germans, French, Americans, and Scandinavians. Visitors to Nepal in 1992 stayed an average of 14 days, compared with 12 days a year earlier, the official said, adding that nearly 70,000 tourists trekked to the Annapurna and Mount Everest regions for an average of 15 days.

Tourism, Nepal's second-largest earner after the carpet and clothing export industry, brought in \$62.7 million last year.

#### Dubai trade maintains high growth

DUBAI (R) — Trade in booming Dubai, the commercial hub of the United Arab Emirates and a principal Gulf port, hit new records in 1992 with massive increases in imports, non-oil exports and re-exports. Government figures showed imports up by almost 25 per cent to 47.5 billion dirhams (\$13 billion). Reexports, a major business for Dubai that acts as a clearing house for trade around the Gulf, were up almost 20 per cent to nine billion dirhams (\$3.45 billion). Non-oil exports were up 18.5 per cent to 3.3 billion dirhams (\$900 million). Figures are not published for the value of oil exports from Dubai, a small oil producer with an output of about 350,000 barrels per day.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 17, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Things will seem to work out well in the early part of the day but later on individuals may go back on their word and feel that you've been imposed upon them. Be sure to state your mind clearly.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get into the many activities at which you are proficient and get them in perfect shape after which you can be with outside associates and new agreements.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) During the day you can make plans for having a good time at the outlets of your choice and tonight eliminate confusion and make wise future plans.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) The promises you have made your family during the weekend can be successfully put in motion today but tonight take them with you to amusements.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have many activities to put in motion today so don't delay but get them in back of you, then be tactful, eliminate problems at home.

**LEO:** (July 22 August 21) Carry through with the practical decisions you made over the weekend during the daytime while later be sure you know your facts before communicating.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your daytime is replete with opportunities for you to put you personal plans into effect but in the evening don't spend except upon proven objects.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Quiet analysis of where you are headed and, then, putting effort in the right direction brings good results while tonight avoid a home confrontation.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) During the daytime let acquaintances who understand your needs help you make them a part of your life but take up only clear problems tonight.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Use the daytime to get whatever requires your particular attention of a public or vocational nature, later use your own judgement not a friend's.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) Get out of your run and do what will bring you more awareness of new interests to forward your aims, then sidetrack odd requests of a bigwig.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 22 to February 19) Do those things you have agreed for your close companion wholeheartedly for then you are able to get off to new interests that intrigue you.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Do what you can to convince outside partners of your views even if it requires much time and effort, then don't listen to others criticism of your surroundings.

### THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS	1 Brisk	14 Type-metal space	25 "Lise"	37 Jewel	44 Metaphysical poet	51 Actor Parker	59 In flower	61 Sycophants	62 Elipsoidal	63 Essence	64 Tramp	65 Park favorite	66 Directly	67 A Campbell	68 Back street	69 Paranoir	70 Champion	71 School years	72 Pitcher with a spout	73 Ostentatious	74 Unconventional	75 Horse god	76 Actor Parker	77 In flower	78 Sycophants	79 Elipsoidal	80 Essence	81 Tramp	82 Park favorite	83 Directly	84 A Campbell	85 Back street	86 Paranoir	87 Champion	88 School years	89 Pitcher with a spout	90 Ostentatious	91 Unconventional	92 Horse god	93 Actor Parker	94 In flower	95 Sycophants	96 Elipsoidal	97 Essence	98 Tramp	99 Park favorite	100 Directly	
DOWN	2 Handing	3 Insignia	4 Measure of length: abbr.	5 Rut	6 Unconventional	7 Horse god	8 Actor Parker	9 In flower	10 Sycophants	11 Elipsoidal	12 Essence	13 Tramp	14 Park favorite	15 Directly	16 A Campbell	17 Back street	18 Paranoir	19 Champion	20 School years	21 Pitcher with a spout	22 Ostentatious	23 Unconventional	24 Horse god	25 Actor Parker	26 In flower	27 Sycophants	28 Elipsoidal	29 Essence	30 Tramp	31 Park favorite	32 Directly	33 A Campbell	34 Back street	35 Paranoir	36 Champion	37 School years	38 Pitcher with a spout	39 Ostentatious	40 Unconventional	41 Horse god	42 Actor Parker	43 In flower	44 Sycophants	45 Elipsoidal	46 Essence	47 Tramp	48 Park favorite	49 Directly

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN: 1. Nasty, 2. Handing, 3. Insignia, 4. Measure of length: abbr., 5. Rut, 6. Unconventional, 7. Horse god, 8. Actor Parker, 9. In flower, 10. Sycophants, 11. Elipsoidal, 12. Essence, 13. Tramp, 14. Park favorite, 15. Directly, 16. A Campbell, 17. Back street, 18. Paranoir, 19. Champion, 20. School years, 21. Pitcher with a spout, 22. Ostentatious, 23. Unconventional, 24. Horse god, 25. Actor Parker, 26. In flower, 27. Sycophants, 28. Elipsoidal, 29. Essence, 30. Tramp, 31. Park favorite, 32. Directly, 33. A Campbell, 34. Back street, 35. Paranoir, 36. Champion, 37. School years, 38. Pitcher with a spout, 39. Ostentatious, 40. Unconventional, 41. Horse god, 42. Actor Parker, 43. In flower, 44. Sycophants, 45. Elipsoidal, 46. Essence, 47. Tramp, 48. Park favorite, 49. Directly, 50. Nasty, 51. Actor Parker, 52. Handing, 53. Measure of length: abbr., 54. Rut, 55. Unconventional, 56. Horse god, 57. Actor Parker, 58. In flower, 59. Sycophants, 60. Elipsoidal, 61. Essence, 62. Tramp, 63. Park favorite, 64. Directly, 65. A Campbell, 66. Back street, 67. Paranoir, 68. Champion, 69. School years, 70. Pitcher with a spout, 71. Ostentatious, 72. Unconventional, 73. Horse god, 74. Actor Parker, 75. In flower, 76. Sycophants, 77. Elipsoidal, 78. Essence, 79. Tramp, 80. Park favorite, 81. Directly, 82. A Campbell, 83. Back street, 84. Paranoir, 85. Champion, 86. School years, 87. Pitcher with a spout, 88. Ostentatious, 89. Unconventional, 90. Horse god, 91. Actor Parker, 92. In flower, 93. Sycophants, 94. Elipsoidal, 95. Essence, 96. Tramp, 97. Park favorite, 98. Directly, 99. A Campbell, 100. Back street.

### THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"Dancing in the dark with you was very romantic...until I stepped on the cat!"

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EWLEH

REMEB

IBINIK

RANLYX

WHAT THE TRAVELING CORRESPONDENT'S WIFE DIDN'T LIKE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

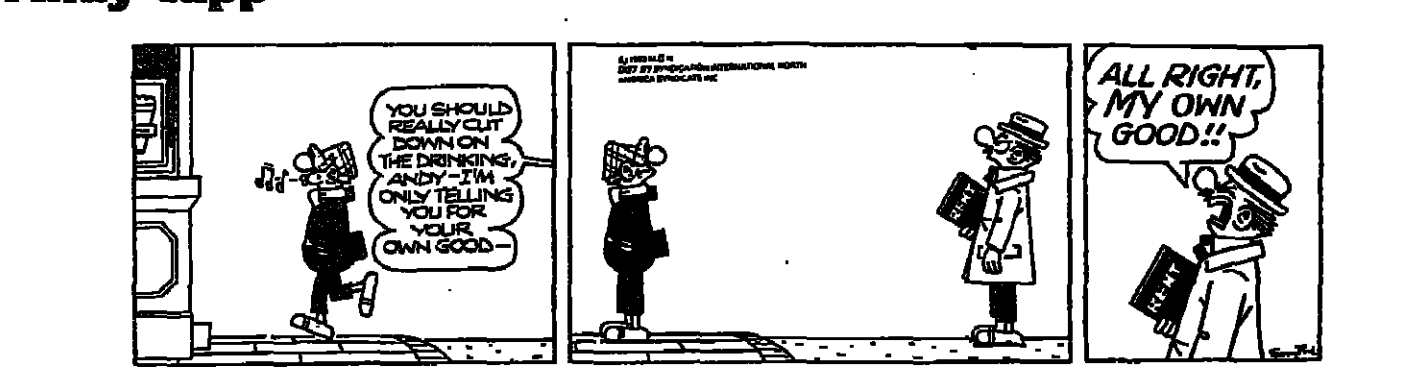
Print answer here: HIS " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGON BUMPY LATEST NEARLY  
Answer: What his old flame did when she saw him with another girl—A SLOW BURN

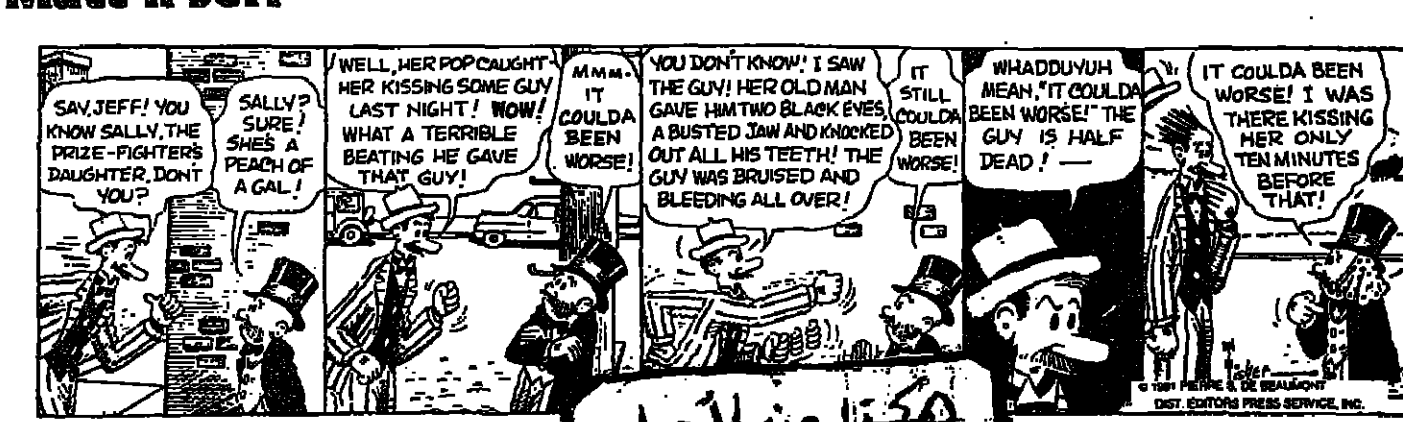
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff









## U.N. braces for more fighting as Bosnian Serbs resume voting

SARAJEVO (R) — Fierce fighting that has raged in northern and southern Bosnia for the past week could soon spread to central regions once more, a United Nations official said Sunday.

Clashes between Serbs and Muslims around the northern town of Brcko were reported Saturday night and Sunday morning, Commander Barry Frewer said.

Frontline positions around Brcko, which commands a vital Serb supply corridor, did not however appear to have moved much recently despite machinegun and artillery duels.

The Bosnian Serb Panthers special forces unit accused Muslims of taking advantage of a Serb referendum this weekend on a peace plan for Bosnia to launch an attack on Brcko.

"The fact is they lost Brcko last May," Panthers spokeswoman Tamara Ognjenic, in black cap and combat fatigues, told Reuters Television.

"It was an excellent chance for them to invade Brcko and cut the corridor."

U.N. officials and Muslim media have in recent days spoken of a Serb offensive in the area.

In southwestern Bosnia, Muslim forces traded fire in the ancient city of Mostar Sunday morning, Maj. Frewer said.

Hostilities continued despite a meeting between rival military leaders aimed at ending the fighting between the former allies which began in the town a week ago.

Croatian radio accused the Muslims of starting Sunday's attack.

Maj. Frewer said Spanish U.N. peacekeeping troops were still being fired on by units of the Bosnian Croat Forces (HVO), who controlled access to and from Mostar.

He also voiced concern that fighting between Croats and Muslims would erupt again in central Bosnia, where tension has been rising since bitter clashes between the two sides subsided earlier this month.

"We are watching growing tensions in the Travnik, Vitez, Kiseljak areas," Maj. Frewer told reporters.

"There is evidence reinforcements are being moved in and we have seen some new HVO gun positions around Vitez."

He added: "We are bracing for the possibility of new fighting around this area."

A team of U.N. military observers came under fire near Kiseljak Saturday while they were on a mission to arrange a body and prisoner exchange between Muslims and Croats.

One of the observers was wounded in the foot by a bullet fired from a distance of about 150 metres.

"We don't know who fired," said Maj. Frewer. "But we suspect it came from an HVO position."

Muslims and Croats, until recently allied in their fight against the Bosnian Serbs, have turned on each other in an attempt to grab territory ahead of possible implementation of a U.N.-backed peace plan which divides Bosnia into ethnic areas.

Maj. Frewer also reported sporadic small arms and mortar fire around the eastern Muslim town of Srebrenica, where agreement has been reached with Serb forces to establish a demilitarised zone.

The Bosnian Serbs were still insisting that no United Nations aid convoys would be allowed into the town until demilitarisation was completed, a process expected to take a few more days.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, John McMillan, said people from outlying villages wanted to return to the town of Srebrenica, but had been told by Canadian peacekeepers there that the situation was still too unsettled.

Mr. McMillan said the town was suffering from a shortage of water and had only enough food for a week. It also needed seed as the planting season was coming to an end.

For all these reasons, Mr. McMillan said, the resumption of aid convoys was essential.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs resumed voting Sunday in a referendum expected to deliver an overwhelming "no" to a United Nations-sponsored peace plan to end the republic's 13-month civil war.

Even before polling in the weekend plebiscite was completed, their leaders said they would call for fresh proposals if voters rejected the scheme.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic announced he would ask Mikhail Gorbachev to draw up a new peace plan, but officials at the former Soviet president's think tank in Moscow said they knew nothing of the request.

Senators John Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts, delivered a message from President Bill Clinton to Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh on the issue of U.S. prisoners-of-war and servicemen Missing-In-Action (PoW/MIA).

It remained the key issue in relations between Washington and Hanoi, including an end to the embargo and to U.S. vetoes on International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to Vietnam, Sen. Kerry told a news conference after meeting Mr. Anh and government ministers.

"The impediment to the United States moving on the embargo or the IMF has been remaining questions or reservations about PoW/MIA. That is why resolution of this problem is so important," Sen. Kerry said.

Washington believed Vietnam had "greatly cooperated" by signing the 1991 Paris accords for Cambodia and clearing its post-war reeducation camps — issues on which the United States had demanded action by Hanoi — and on PoW/MIA.

"But questions still exist. So the real question on the IMF and the embargo is how rapidly can we eliminate these remaining questions on PoW/MIA," he said.

"If we can proceed rapidly to answer the question, I'm confident the United States will proceed forward in the relationship," he said.

He said Vietnam had done a great deal to cooperate, especially since last month's row over a Russian document which indicated Hanoi held 600 more prisoners in 1972 than it acknowledged.

Although Vietnam rejected the document as a fake and U.S. experts said they had doubts about it, the U.S. anti-Vietnam lobby used it to raise questions about Hanoi's good faith.

The Eurovision winner got a 10,000-gust (\$15,130) trophy in Irish cut-glass crystal as well as the right to stage next year's event, a mixed blessing for the Irish State Broadcaster RTE which faces another year of anguished preparation.

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The 25-year-old said after the show she was overwhelmed and ecstatic to have pulled off a home win, while the organisers declared the show a resounding technical triumph.

Irish press coverage of the annual showdown has concentrated more on the technical wizardry needed to broadcast to 33 countries than the quality of the songs.

## 10 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hooded gunmen made five people lie on the ground and shot them to death Saturday in one of several attacks that killed 10 people, police said.

In other incidents, three off-duty soldiers were arrested on suspicion of opening fire on a taxi cab, killing three passengers, in Eastern Transvaal province, and two people died when gunmen shot at buses carrying Inkatha Freedom Party supporters from a march in Natal province.

More than 9,000 blacks have died in political violence in the past three years, with most clashes stemming from a long struggle for power between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha.

Much of the violence has been in Natal and black townships around Johannesburg.

Two men wearing hoods and armed with 9mm pistols carried out the execution-style killings of the five people in Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg in Natal, police said. They said the attack might be related to the killing of two women in the area last week.

Police also said a white man has been arrested in connection with a plot to kill popular anti-apartheid figure Joe Slovo, a leader of the Communist Party and ANC.

A white extremist and two leaders of the white right-wing are being held in connection with the assassination of black leader Chris Hani on April 10.

Meanwhile, South African President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela were named winners of the 1993 Philadelphia Liberty Medal and will receive the prize on July 4.

The two leaders were cited for their efforts to reform South Africa's apartheid system, in the spirit of the medal, which honours the ideals behind America's founding.

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## U.S. wants more documents from Hanoi

HANOI (R) — A U.S. senator hinted Sunday that the United States might lift its economic embargo of Vietnam provided it got more documents from Hanoi about American soldiers whose fate has gone unresolved since the Vietnam War.

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Irish press coverage of the annual showdown has concentrated more on the technical wizardry needed to broadcast to 33 countries than the quality of the songs.

Senators John Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts, delivered a message from President Bill Clinton to Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh on the issue of U.S. prisoners-of-war and servicemen Missing-In-Action (PoW/MIA).

It remained the key issue in relations between Washington and Hanoi, including an end to the embargo and to U.S. vetoes on International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to Vietnam, Sen. Kerry told a news conference after meeting Mr. Anh and government ministers.

"The impediment to the United States moving on the embargo or the IMF has been remaining questions or reservations about PoW/MIA. That is why resolution of this problem is so important," Sen. Kerry said.

Washington believed Vietnam had "greatly cooperated" by signing the 1991 Paris accords for Cambodia and clearing its post-war reeducation camps — issues on which the United States had demanded action by Hanoi — and on PoW/MIA.

"But questions still exist. So the real question on the IMF and the embargo is how rapidly can we eliminate these remaining questions on PoW/MIA," he said.

"If we can proceed rapidly to answer the question, I'm confident the United States will proceed forward in the relationship," he said.

He said Vietnam had done a great deal to cooperate, especially since last month's row over a Russian document which indicated Hanoi held 600 more prisoners in 1972 than it acknowledged.

Although Vietnam rejected the document as a fake and U.S. experts said they had doubts about it, the U.S. anti-Vietnam lobby used it to raise questions about Hanoi's good faith.

The Eurovision winner got a 10,000-gust (\$15,130) trophy in Irish cut-glass crystal as well as the right to stage next year's event, a mixed blessing for the Irish State Broadcaster RTE which faces another year of anguished preparation.

Ireland won the 1992 contest in Malmö, Sweden, with a ballad Why Me? written by two-times Eurovision victor Johnny Logan.

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The successful Irish Eurovision Song Contest team cheers after the Irish entry "In Your Eyes" edged out England's, giving the Irish their second consecutive victory. (From left to right) Head of the Irish delegation John McHugh, Patricia O'Neill, Martina Tobin, Niamh Kavanagh, presenter Fionnula Sweeney and Garrett Wall (AFP photo)

## Ireland wins Eurovision contest, but Balkans share the limelight

MILLSTREET, Ireland (R) — Hosts Ireland won the annual Eurovision Song Contest spectacular for the second year running, beating off competition from 24 countries including Bosnia, Croatia and Slovenia.

The upbeat ballad In Your Eyes triumphed in the biggest ever Eurovision extravaganza held in a converted Irish show-jumping stadium and watched live by 300 million television viewers in Europe and beyond.

It was a fifth win for the Eurovision veteran Ireland but Balkan states competing for the first time in the pop parade were also stars of the show, raising a storm of applause for their songs although none came among the top scorers.

The group from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Fazla, had left Sarajevo under heavy fighting to enter their ballad about a soldier defending the city and had said before the contest they felt like winners just for being there.

The group came away down the field in the 38th annual Eurovision but at least got a maximum

12 points from one of the 25 national juries, Turkey, Croatia, a strong favourite with bookmakers before the contest, had its hopes dashed when the vocal harmony Don't Ever Cry failed to stir the judges.

Ireland has put millions of dollars and months of work into staging the song for Europe show in a rural setting in the picturesque village of Millstreet around 270 kilometres from the capital Dublin, in County Cork.

Pandemonium broke out in the audience after a tense race to the finish against second placed Britain, which offered a jaunty tune called Better The Devil You Know performed by Liverpool singer Sonia. The Irish Television commentator had earlier called the British song "mediocre".

The venue, an equestrian arena owned by a local entrepreneur Noel C. Duggan was transformed into a high-tech broadcasting hub for the contest, which drew thousands of journalists, music producers and tourists to the tiny village and gave a huge boost to the local economy.

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## Khasbulatov: West pushing Russia to ruin

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin's chief political rival portrayed Russia at the weekend as a country on its knees before the Western world, being pushed towards civil war, disintegration and foreign control.

Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said Mr. Yeltsin's attempt to bypass the legislature in drafting a new constitution reflected dictatorial ambitions. In these designs, he was encouraged by a self-serving West.

"Attempts to solve the present crisis ... by anti-constitutional means will lead irrevocably to the collapse of Russia — something which influential international political, financial and industrial circles are striving for in the most open manner," he wrote in Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper.

"The time has come when not only deputies and ministers, but only regional authorities, but all citizens should recognise the danger facing the country of death, war and subjugation to foreign powers," he said.

"The danger to Russia of 'Balkanisation' is a real one."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg in Moscow Sunday to discuss ways of stopping fighting in former Yugoslavia.

Nationalist opponents of Mr. Yeltsin see Mr. Kozyrev's backing of Western policies in the region as a symptom of a sellout of traditional Russian interests to the United States.

Mr. Yeltsin's estranged former political ally, Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, also accused the West this week of having deliberately engineered the collapse of the Soviet Union and suggested it now sought to dismember Russia.

Both Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov point to outspoken Western support for Mr. Yeltsin and to the West's unprecedented influence over Russian economic policy as Moscow carries financial favour to see it through radical market reforms.

The strongly nationalist remarks coincide with an offensive by Mr. Yeltsin against conservative political enemies including, in the first rank, Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov.

Building on what he regards as a triumph in last month's national confidence vote, he has sacked two key conservative officials and summoned a special assembly for June 5 to draft and possibly adopt a new constitution.

The move, bypassing the existing constitution, has opened a split in the parliamentary opposition, with some long-time allies of Mr. Khasbulatov now backing Mr. Yeltsin's plan.

In comments to foreign journalists Saturday, Mr. Khasbulatov issued an implicit warning to the West, speaking of possible anarchy rather than any foreign dominion in Russia if Mr. Yeltsin flouts the constitution.

"And that means that those nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons that are very dangerous to the environment and to other states many end up out of control," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin seeks to push through a new constitution granting him firm control over government and powers to dissolve parliament. It would abolish the present legislature, which he sees as a symbol of the old Soviet order.

Recent remarks by some members of the parliamentary leadership, Mr. Khasbulatov not among them, have suggested a possible compromise between the presidential version and a parliamentary draft.

He explained Sunday that Washington had made the link between promoting universal principles of freedom and human rights served as the central pillars of U.S. foreign policy under the new administration.

The dialogue, preceding the May 20-21 enlarged security talks in Singapore between ASEAN's senior officials and its seven major trading partners, had political and security issues on its agenda for the first time.

Mr. Lord had linked human rights and democracy with security after expressing Washington's readiness to include regional security concerns in future dialogues with ASEAN.

"Security involves more than just arms and alliances. Democracy and human rights are components of a broader definition of security," Mr. Lord said at the opening day of the dialogue.

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Former Cambodian Prime Minister and non-communist resistance leader Son Sann, head of the opposition Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, releases a pigeon during an election rally Monday (AFP photo)

## Peacekeeping nations ask Cambodia to control violence

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Nations participating in the U.N. peacekeeping operation told the Cambodian government Sunday it must reduce violence against the opposition or else next week's elections may not be recognised as free and fair, diplomats said.

The level of violence and intimidation "is still too high," French ambassador Philippe Coste told reporters after leading the diplomats in a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen.

He said the government must do more to reduce attacks during the final days of the campaign for the U.N.-organised elections on May 23-28 what the U.N. peacekeeping mission hopes will be the first democratic polls in Cambodia since 1972.

The nations told Hun Sen there was evidence that the government was behind some of the violent attacks on opposition party members, a Western diplomat who demanded anonymity said.

Mr. Hun Sen promised to make every efforts to ensure that his orders to guarantee neutral and secure conditions were carried out, the diplomat said.

Officials of one of Cambodia's main opposition parties, meanwhile, accused the Phnom Penh government of murdering party workers, but the party's leader said it will still participate in the elections.

"I want to have the election, but the election must ... be free of political violence and assassination," Son Sann, head of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, told a rally Sunday of about 5,000 supporters in downtown Phnom Penh.

If Son Sann's party pulled out, the United Nations would be under great pressure to cancel the election. Son Sann's group is one of the three guerrilla factions that fought Hun Sen's Vietnamese-installed government for nearly 13 years before a 1991 Paris peace accord authorised the U.N. election.

ASEAN, which groups Brunei with Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, has rejected many previous attempts by the United States to define human rights, saying the right of society overrode individual rights as had been espoused by Washington.

"The point I want to stress is that open societies and democracies do not attack or fight one another or practice terrorism. They are more peaceful," Mr. Lord said. "They do not produce refugees."

ASEAN had rejected attempts by Washington to force it to adopt a hard line against Burma, ruled since 1988 by a military junta that had been condemned by the West for violating human rights and ignoring the results of a 1990 general election won by the opposition.

The group had insisted that it continued its policy of engaging Burma in a constructive dialogue to wean it back into the international community.

Mr. Lord had said in Peking Wednesday that the renewal next month of China's most-favoured nation trade status would "very likely" be linked to progress in human rights, trade and arms non-proliferation.

ASEAN's senior officials welcomed Washington's assurances that it would not make the thorny issue of human rights an obstacle to closer cooperation.

"The U.S. understands our position, and we know its position. We will respect each other's views," said Kamal Jaafar, secretary general of Malaysia's Foreign Ministry and leader of Kuala Lumpur's delegation to the talks.

Mr. Guerra said the vast majority of patients being treated in Santiago de Cuba were improving. "We have nobody who has gone blind or who has been paralysed," he said.

Because many of the first patients in west Cuba were farm workers, experts had examined the possibility that the disease was caused by pesticides, agriculture-related toxins or even home-brewed alcohol. But they found no link.

A virus similar to a type known as Coxsackie had also been identified in some patients, but investigations in this direction were continuing, the Health Ministry said.

Cuban leaders say the mysterious circumstances of the epidemic meant they could not rule out the possibility it might have been introduced to the island by Cuba's enemies.

In 1981, President Fidel Castro accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of introducing a fatal strain of haemorrhagic dengue fever to the island.

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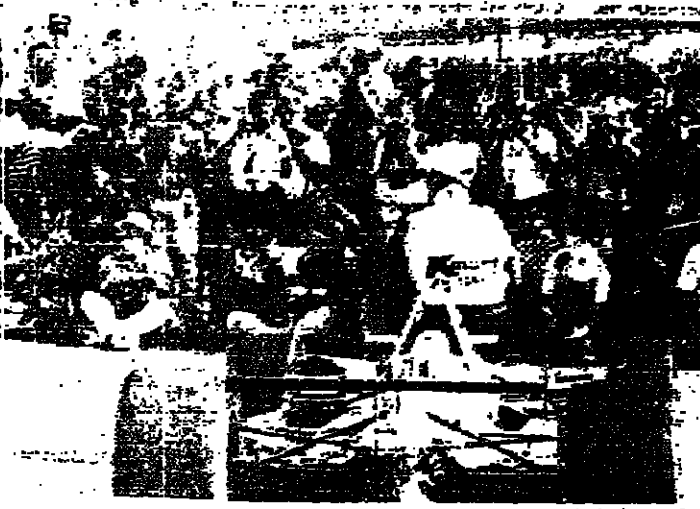
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## Sports



Current Formula One champion Nigel Mansell faces a sea of photographers as he sits on his car after qualifying for the Indianapolis 500 (AFP photo)

## Mansell qualifies 2 weeks after surgery

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Nigel Mansell's education at the Indianapolis motor speedway continued Saturday with a successful qualifying run for the May 30 Indianapolis 500.

"It's very frustrating," said Mansell, who aborted one attempt in the early afternoon after three laps above 218 mph (350 kph). He came back to qualify in the final hour of the first four days of time trials with a four-lap average of 220.255 mph (354.390 kph).

"Lunchtime, I did 222.9 (358.6 kph) in the heat of the day... I put three laps together in the 220s (357 kph) and I felt very optimistic of going well. I was itching to go, like I have been all my career," said the 39-year-old Englishman, who didn't drive on the 2.12-mile (4-kilometre) oval until Wednesday.

The long wait between qualifying attempts was a unique experience to Mansell.

"We usually only have an hour (to qualify)," said Mansell, referring to Formula One where he won the world title last year before switching to the IndyCar series this year.

Mansell's first lap was 221.811 mph (356.894 kph). He dropped to just over 219 mph (353 kph) on his second lap, then climbed over the 220 mph (354 kph) mark on his final two laps to earn the right to race on an oval for the first time in his career.

A quick trip home to Clearwater, Florida, was on Mansell's immediate agenda as he rehabilitates from April 28 back surgery.

"I'm going to see my specialist as soon as I arrive and get my back checked out," he said.

## Prairie Bayou wins Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP) — Prairie Bayou rebounded from a second-place finish in the Kentucky Derby and lived up to his billing as the pre-race favourite Saturday, outduelling Cherokee Run in a two-horse finish by a half length to win the Preakness Stakes.

Prairie Bayou broke with Cherokee Run from a pack of four at the top of stretch and slowly outlasted his rival to become the first gelding in 79 years to win the Preakness, the second leg of the U.S. Thoroughbred Triple Crown.

Sea Hero, the Kentucky Derby winner, was fifth in a field of 12 3-year-olds at Pimlico. There will be no Triple Crown winner for the 15th straight year. The final leg of the Triple Crown is the Belmont Stakes in New York June 5.

Union City broke down on the backstretch and did not finish. Prairie Bayou, the pre-race favourite in the Kentucky Derby as well, went off the favourite at



From left to right Prairie Bayou, Cherokee Run, El Baskan and Personal Hope all take a turn during the 118th running of the Preakness Stakes (AFP photo)

Pimlico despite his runnerup finish in the two weeks ago. He charged down the middle of the stretch, took the lead inside the eighth pole, and beat Cherokee Run, a newcomer to the Triple Crown competition.

Prairie Bayou became the second beaten Derby favourite to win the Preakness in three years. Hansel did it in 1991.

Prairie Bayou, ridden by Mike Smith, raced the 1 3/16 miles (1,900 metres) in one minute, 56 3/5 seconds and paid \$6.40, \$3.60 and \$3.40 to win, place and show on a \$2 bet.

Cherokee Run was seven lengths in front of El Baskan, who had finished 18th in the Derby. Personal Hope, fourth in the Derby, finished fourth again, another neck back, on his sunny, warm Saturday.

Sea Hero finished next, 8 1/2 lengths back of the winner.

Of Sea Hero's failure, jockey Jerry Bailey said, "he sailed in but he didn't grab hold of the bridle like he did in Kentucky. He just wasn't there today."

While the victors celebrated in the winner's circle, a horse ambulance took Union City from the track with a compound fracture of the right front ankle. The colt was later destroyed.

"He took a bad step and unfortunately seemed to turn his right ankle," jockey Pat Valenzuela said. "He was running great, unfortunately, these accidents happen."

Completing the order of finish after Sea Hero were Woods of Windsor, Rockamundo, Wild Gale, Hegar, Kolutoo Jimmy Al and Too Wild.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
YAMAM HUSCH  
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### THE MOYSIAN FIT

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 6 5  
♥ A K 2  
♦ J 5  
♣ K 9 6 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 8 7  
♥ J 3  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ A K Q 10 9 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 4 2  
♥ 7 Q 10 5  
♦ 8 7 4 3  
♣ A 3

The bidding:  
East 1♣ South 1♥ West 1♠ North 4♠  
Pass Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Two of ♠  
The power of a 4-3 fit in a major suit was espoused by the late Alphonse "Sonny" Moysian during his days as editor of *The Bridge World*. This hand, from a recent tournament in Crenshaw, Switzerland, is unusual in that declarer can get home by a dummy reversal in a Moysian fit!

South's one-spread overall will be crowned upon by purists. It did, however, propel North-South quickly to a game which could have been made.

West led a diamond and, after banking a second diamond trick, on which West discarded a heart, East shifted to the jack of trumps. Declarer must win in hand with the queen and cash the ace of trumps, which removes East's remaining trump.

After playing off the ace and king of clubs, declarer ruffs a club, returns to dummy with the king of hearts and ruffs another club, establishing a long club in dummy. Now declarer has a couple of ways to get home.

One is to cash two rounds of hearts and the king of trumps for a total of 10 tricks. With the hand counted out, however, there is an even prettier ending available. Declarer crosses to the board with the ace of hearts, cashes the king of trumps and leads the established club. West ruffs, but now must bring South's queen of hearts to life as the fulfilling trick.

Sonny would have liked the hand.

## 2nd Division Basketball Championship Final round begins today

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The final round of the Second Division Basketball Championship, organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF), begins Monday at the Sports Palace Court.

The four qualifying teams — Abbasi, Homentmen, Gazet Hashem and Yarmouk Amman — will be competing in the one-leg decisive round at the end of which only the leading team will be promoted to the First Division in 1994.

In the final match of the first round, played Saturday evening at the JBF court, Abbasi and Homentmen fought it out in the most competitive match of the championship attended by a good number of fans of both teams.

Abbasi managed to keep their lead in the match and maintained a 1 point lead to overcome Homentmen 58-57 after the first half ended 34-21 for Abbasi.

Abbasi took the lead from the onset of the match leading 6-0 and 12-4 depending on taller players and taking advantage of the lack of rebounding and inaccurate shooting by their opponents.

Homentmen managed to catch up after Sevan Sarkissian scored 6 points to tie 12-12.

However, Abbasi's energetic players seemed determined to win as they converted many turnovers and burdened Homentmen with many fouls to again widen their lead to 28-12 with 5 minutes remaining.

Homentmen's Ali Abu Rahmeh rebounded and scored and teammate Vasken Adjemian sank a final-second three pointer ending the half 34-21 for Abbasi.

In the second half, Homentmen secured defensive rebounding by Vicken Avakian and Abu Rahmeh as they narrowed the gap to 38-31. Abbasi, on the other hand, scored through foul shots by Omar Fadel and managed to keep a 43-35 lead.

However, Homentmen again managed to narrow the gap and tied the score at 45-45 by a three-pointer by Adjemian.

Abbasi then led 48-45, and Homentmen tied again after the referee called a technical foul on Abbasi. Homentmen's playmaker Robert Chamajian scored to give his team the lead at 52-50 with 2 minutes remaining. Abbasi then scored to lead 53-52 as fans of both teams cheered their teams hoping to win.

Homentmen again led 54-53 in the final minute, however, Abbasi took advantage of foul shots and a turnover to lead 58-54 before Homentmen's Adjemian scored another three-pointer ending the match 58-57 for Abbasi.

The result of the match gave Abbasi the lead in the first round in which nine teams competed.

In the first match of the final round Homentmen play Gazet Hashem and Abbasi play Yarmouk Amman. The four teams then play Thursday and the championship ends Sunday May 23, when former First Division teams — Abbasi and Homentmen clash once again for the title and a return to the First Division.

## Courier, Ivanisevic in Italian Open final

ROME (Agencies) — Jim Courier did his part to set up a dream final. Pete Sampras didn't.

Sampras and Courier, ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the world, were seeded to meet in the first All-American final in the 50-year history of the Italian Open.

Courier, the defending champion, kept his appointment with a 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-0 semifinal victory Saturday over sixth-seeded Michael Chang. But Sampras, the No. 1 seed, was eliminated by No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

Courier, who reached his fifth final of the year, will try to become the first player to win consecutive Italian Open titles since Jaroslav Drobný in 1950-51. Sunday's final at the Foro Italico will be best-of-five sets.

Sampras had not lost a set going into the semifinals, but he ran into a player who has beaten him regularly on all surfaces. Ivanisevic's victory Saturday was his fifth in six career matches against Sampras.

"I really like to play him," the Croatian left-hander said. "I have a game he doesn't like. Also, he doesn't like to play lefties."

Ivanisevic punished Sampras with his huge serve, recording 13 aces and 15 service winners. He had three service games with two aces and, in one game, he hit three straight aces.

"I felt kind of helpless trying to return his serve," Sampras said. "Acing you two or three times a game is kind of discouraging."

The match lasted only one hour and 15 minutes, with not a single game going to deuce. The two were even until the tiebreaker when Ivanisevic gained the upper hand with two aces and two service winners.

The match was essentially over after the Croatian broke Sampras in the second game of the final set. From then on, Sampras

appeared dejected and failed to mount a serious challenge.

"Once I lost that first set, I got down a little bit on myself," Sampras said. "My head was dropping down and I was playing with low energy. I got a bit tentative and impatient. He got more confident and his serve carried him through."

The victory marked a major comeback for Ivanisevic, who has been plagued by injuries and early-round losses since reaching the Wimbledon final last year. He missed a month earlier this year with a stress fracture of the foot and another three weeks with an Achilles problem.

While Ivanisevic seems to have Sampras' number, Courier has beaten Chang six straight times. "I just seem to be winning the bigger points," he said.

Courier cruised through the first set in 41 minutes and appeared headed to a quick victory, but Chang battled back in the second set. Chang raced out to a 6-0 lead in the tiebreaker as Courier committed three unforced errors and a double fault. Courier erased two set points before hitting a forehand wide on the third.

"I played some good points at the end of the tiebreak and it carried over to the third set," said Courier, who broke in the first game of the final set with a forehand winner and broke two more times in blanking Chang.

Chang was coming off a marathon quarterfinal victory over Andrei Chesnokov that lasted three hours and 46 minutes and ended at midnight Friday. Chang didn't get to bed until 3 a.m. But he didn't blame fatigue for his third set letdown.

"Actually I felt pretty good today," he said. "I played some good tennis, but he put it together today. He was really tough on the big points. I felt I



A disappointed Pete Sampras

had quite a few opportunities to win a few games in the third set and didn't convert."

Graf beats Fernandez, will face Sabatini for title: In Berlin defending champion Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini needed three sets each Saturday to advance to the final of the \$750,000 German Open.

Graf, the top seed, survived a see-saw battle with Mary Joe Fernandez Saturday, rallying to outlast the American 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Sabatini, the No. 2 seed, beat Conchita Martinez 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, avenging a 7-5, 6-1 loss to the Spaniard last week in the final of the Italian Open.

Fernandez, the No. 3 seed, was on the verge of beating Graf for

the first time after taking the 3-1 lead in the decisive set.

"For the first time ever against Graf, I believed I could win," Fernandez said.

But the German suddenly gained control of her erratic forehand and rediscovered her missing serve. She won the next six games to clinch the match.

Graf is seeking her seventh title in Berlin, the site of her first international success. In 1986, the then-unknown German teen-ager beat Martina Navratilova in straight sets to take home the first of her titles.

She will play in her ninth final when she meets Sabatini.

The Argentine had to battle hard to overcome the fifth-seeded Martinez.

## Jordan, despite injury, hands Cavs defeat

CLEVELAND (R) — Two teams clawed their way back into playoff contention Saturday but Michael Jordan, playing with only one good hand, was too much for the Cavaliers as the Chicago Bulls took a commanding 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

Jordan, clearly bothered by a sprained right wrist, scored 32 points and took control in crunch time as Chicago beat Cleveland 96-90 to move within one more win of reaching the conference finals.

While the Cavs failed to revive despite the series shift to Cleveland, both the San Antonio Spurs and Houston Rockets rallied to victory before their hometown fans after falling behind 2-0 in their Western Conference series.

The Spurs beat the Phoenix Suns 111-96, and the Rockets rolled to a 97-79 rout of the Seattle SuperSonics, and both clubs hoped to even their respective series at 2-2 with another home victory.

"The wrist loosened up after the first half," said Jordan, who added that sweeping the Cavaliers was an immediate goal for the Bulls, who would have a week off before their next playoff if they can eliminate the Cavs in Monday's game four.

Scottie Pippen added 28 points for the Bulls, who have yet to lose a game in the post-season. Larry Nance had 24 points for Cleveland, who were outscored 22-15 in the fourth quarter.

In San Antonio, the Spurs closed to within 2-1 in their series with the Suns despite getting only 13 points from star centre David Robinson, who shot 4-16.

Kevin Johnson led Phoenix with 26 points and Charles Barkley had 22 points and 14 rebounds.

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	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30				SUZAN		Death of Taybeh	Wednesdays AT 9:00 p.m.
					Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		By: Suheil Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash	Welcome New World Order
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## Arms talks set to resume this week

WASHINGTON (R) — When multilateral Middle East arms control talks resume Tuesday after an eight-month lull, one fundamental issue will still be unresolved — whether participants think controls are needed or desired.

Set to run for three days in Washington, the talks are expected to draw 25 delegations into the process launched in October 1991 at the Madrid conference on Arab-Israeli peace.

The Middle East is a major market for arms-supplying nations, including the United States, Russia and China, and all of them will be at the talks.

U.S. organisers say the main objective of this third round of talks is to rekindle momentum interrupted by the transition to a new U.S. administration after the second round in Moscow last September. The first round was held in Washington.

Now participants are familiar with arms control treaties signed by the United States and the former Soviet Union, the focus of attention will probably swing to the Middle East itself, to discuss just what needs to be addressed by any arms control plan or schemes for regional security.

"That's an evolution from the initial situation where we looked primarily at experience from other regions," one U.S. official told Reuters.

"We've gradually turned the corner and begun to discuss more directly the situation in the region and what mechanisms or arrangements could be applied there. That's significant."

But is there consensus within the group that arms control in the Middle East is a worthy goal?

"The appreciation of that is at different levels in the region... I honestly sense nobody is resisting the idea that arms control should seriously be considered as an element of national security policy," the official said.

Weak economies throughout the region make many governments think twice about investing in military equipment, so there is more commitment to looking at arms control as a way to supplant a history of arms procurement.

"We're making good progress in developing an appreciation of arms control as a legitimate tool for national security," the U.S. official said.

However, few are willing to predict when, or if, an arms control agreement for the region might emerge.

Arms control is one of several multilateral working groups formed to complement overriding bilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs. Others focus on water supplies, refugees and economics.

The latest round of bilateral talks ended in Washington last Thursday without a hoped-for agreement on the principles of Palestinian self-rule or a firm date of resumption.

At the arms control talks, the United States, Russia and China will be joined by Israel, Jordan, Egypt, all the Gulf Cooperation Council states, the European Community, Canada, Japan and India.

Palestinians will attend for the first time because of an Israeli agreement to allow Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip to join the multilateral groups.

Syria and Lebanon, which boycotted other multilateral sessions, have declined to attend the arms control group as they await more progress in bilateral talks with Israel.

## Petra refutes Egyptian newspaper's allegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The official Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday refuted an allegation published in an Egyptian newspaper to the effect that Jordan had a hand in the cancellation of Iraqi 25-dinar bills. Petra described the report as baseless and totally false.

The political editor of Petra, who was not identified by name, said a report in Al Jumhuriyah newspaper, written by editor in chief Mahfouz Ansari, alleged that the invalidation of the Iraqi currency came as a result of a plot concocted by King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The report, published on May 13, went on to say that a large amount of 25-dinar bills had been printed outside Iraq and widely circulated in the northern regions of the country. It claimed that this move led later to an agreement between the two leaders to contain the situation by declaring the invalidation of the 25-dinar bills and the closure of the borders to prevent these bills from entering Iraq.

"The Al Jumhuriyah allegations fall within the context of the hostile and unjust campaign that was current during the Gulf crisis and financed by those groups which bear deep grudge against Jordan for its refusal to compromise the Arab Nation's values, traditions and honour," Petra said.

"We were not surprised by the attitude of the Egyptian paper's editor, Mahfouz Al Ansari, but we were surprised by this kind of falsification of events that serve as a futile attempt at smearing the national stand of the King, his government and people."

"The Kingdom, which has adhered to national stands, is used to such onslaughts by certain forces, writers and other organs who in the past sought to endorse the catastrophe that befell the Arab Nation and further dismember the Arab World through rekindling internal strife," the commentary said.

"The previous attacks on Jordan, Petra added, "had led only to further support for the Jordanian position once the dust had settled and the truth emerged with the full facts."

The Petra editor said that Jordan's policy over the past decades reflected "the country's total adherence in word and deed, to the principles of mutual respect and respect of other countries' economic, cultural and political stands and non-interference in the internal affairs of any other country."

He said Jordan had always been "oriented against occupation, racial discrimination, and persecution, and it supported the rights of all people to freedom, democracy, peace and independence and opposed the use of force and violence to settle disputes."

When the Gulf crisis broke out, Petra added, Jordan adopted a clear national stand in support of an Arab solution to the crisis.

"This national stand won the support the Arab masses who considered it as the right policy for inter-Arab relations," it said.

## JPA decries Al Safir closure

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Sunday voiced its condemnation of a decision by the Lebanese government to close Al Safir newspaper.

In cables sent to President of the Lebanese Press Association Mohammad Al Bualbaki, President of the Lebanese Editors Association Milhem Karam, Al Safir owner Talal Salzman and Chief Editor Munir Sulman, JPA President Suleiman Al Qudab and the association's board said they were following with concern "the unjust campaign against the newspaper with the objective of silencing words, burying the truth and placing constraints on the role of the press in defending the cause of the homeland and the nation."

Mr. Qudab and the JPA board expressed support for Al Safir, saying the decision to close it harms democratic norms in Lebanon.

"The Lebanese press have for years remained a living model for a free, responsible and democratic press... and the recent measure taken against Al Safir newspaper is but an attempt to conceal the truth, and an attempt to direct the press with the aim of carrying out black-out projects and schemes targeting the nation," they said in the cables.

## Brotherhood seeks release of 15

(Continued from page 1)

He said the Brotherhood believes those people were detained for questioning on the kind of work they did in Pakistan. And while his group does not object to the investigation, he said, the Brotherhood sees no reason for their detention.

"They could have been allowed to go home and then summoned for questioning. There is no need for detaining them," he asserted.

A statement issued by the bloc Sunday said other issues discussed in the meeting included "harassment" to Jordanians upon travelling to and from the country as well as to people who belong to political parties.

Mr. Khreizat said the bloc presented the prime minister with names of people who were harassed at the airport, including a University of Jordan professor who is a member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

The statement said the bloc presented the prime minister with a memorandum detailing the Brotherhood's views on a number of issues pertaining to public freedoms and the democratic process.



**KING MEETS CLERGY:** His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the Greek Orthodox community in Jordan and occupied Jerusalem. The delegation, led by Patriarch Theodoros I, congratulated the King on the 40th anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers and presented a gift to him on the occasion. King Hussein thanked the delegation for their warm feelings and congratulations. The audience was attended by the Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki (Petra photo)

## First batch of Palestinian police force trainees expected here soon

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A batch of trainees for a proposed Palestinian police force in the occupied territories as part of interim self-government arrangements is expected to arrive here this week, informed sources said Sunday.

The sources could not confirm an Israeli newspaper report that a group of 24 Palestinians had been given permission by the occupation authorities to travel to Jordan Sunday or Monday.

"Trainees are expected here this week to acquire skills in law enforcement and crowd control," said a Palestinian source. "The number of the force is as yet undetermined," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

The source denied reports that some of the trainees were already in Jordan.

Jordanian officials have confirmed that the government was approached by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with a request to train the proposed police force and that Amman had granted the request.

## Jordan's press law more progressive

(Continued from page 1)

"The law only codifies what is being actually practiced in Jordan," said a senior official.

"There is not going to be any dramatic shift in the government's approach to the press," added the official, noting that government interference in newspapers has been extremely rare since the introduction of the democratisation process in 1989.

A cursory look at the state of affairs of the print media in the Gulf and in North Africa appears to support the government's argument that the new law in itself is unprecedented in the Arab World as it institutionalises press freedoms, according to supporters of the law.

In general, Gulf newspapers invariably tow the government line and steer clear of any criticism of the executive authority, they say. A few instances of exception were reported in Kuwait, which has a semi-elected parliament, but the Kuwaiti regulations empower the regime to adopt whatever act it sees fit against journalists and the press establishment.

Investigative reports are almost non-existent in the Gulf press, and government-appointed officials directly or indirectly supervise most newspapers in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Reports of government corruption and mismanagement have surfaced recently in the Kuwaiti press, but that did not happen anywhere else in the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Even before the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990, which led to severe strains in relations between Jordan and the Gulf states, no Jordanian newspaper was allowed to be freely circulated in the Gulf. Today, they are totally banned — more because of their open criticism of officials and evaluation of local issues in Jordan — which the Gulf regimes fear will set a "bad" example for their own press — rather than any criticism of the Gulf regimes, observers and Jordanian journalists say.

In Egypt, three government-controlled newspapers, Al Akbar, Al Ahrar and Al Jumhuriyah, dominate the print media scene. All are headed by strong pro-regime figures who often use the papers to propagate

the government's policies under the supervision of officials appointed by the Shura Council.

Five opposition newspapers have limited circulation and mostly preach to the already converted since their subscribers are party loyalists. They adopt a fairly fair approach to truth and objectivity as long as it suits their party lines, according to observers of the Egyptian scene.

Leftist papers get into trouble often, particularly when it comes to criticism. The editor of Al Ahali was recently imprisoned for two years for carrying a report on official corruption around the court of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

The Saudis obliged Cairo by removing the editor-in-chief of the English-language Arab News when it carried an article which criticised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In North Africa, the situation in Algeria is particularly interesting where the press is under tight control after three years of free-wheeling.

Algeria's press, long used to a one-party, one-paper system, burst out into the open in 1989 after the government of President Chadli Benjedid launched a liberalisation programme. Several dailies started publishing, serving the interests of opposition to the extent that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the dominant fundamentalist group, was on the verge of an overwhelming victory in general elections in 1991 when the military felt it could not accept the course of events.

As a result, the elections were cancelled, President Benjedid was forced to resign, and the FIS was outlawed. Today, one year into a running violent conflict with the Islamic militants, the military-backed Algerian regime has effectively muzzled the press.

In Syria, there are no independent papers and the government uses the media, including the main two dailies, Al Thawra and Tishreen, to express its own views and opinions.

Lebanon once enjoyed one of the most liberal media in the Arab World, but a recent episode involving the leftist Al Safir daily casts doubt on the course of the Lebanese print media under the government of businessman-turned-Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri.

Al Safir was ordered closed for a week for publishing what the

government described as a "sensitive document" presented by the Israeli during peace talks in Washington. The daily now faces legal proceedings.

Like in Syria, all newspapers are also owned and controlled directly by the government in Iraq. One exception perhaps is Babel, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, but the daily is seen more as serving the regime's interests to criticise the officialdom than upholding the sacred ethics of objective reporting and commentary.

In Sudan, the four major publications remain strictly under the control of the military government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who took power in June 1990 after the ouster of an elected government and banned all political parties and their publications.

Needless to say, none of the four — including two run by the armed forces — carries any report or article critical of the regime.

A promise by Gen. Bashir to allow private organisations, not individuals, to publish newspapers remains unfulfilled, with little hope in the horizon for any non-government papers to appear.

The situation in Libya is not much different. A series of reports by the official Tripoli media of policies of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi sparked excitement one year ago, but it appeared since then that the episode was orchestrated by the regime to project itself as democratic.

Even tighter rules govern the press in Morocco, where one of the main taboos for the paper is human rights. There is a lively opposition media, but they live in perpetual fear of stepping on the toes of the ruling circles.

Elsewhere in the Arab Maghreb, Mauritania and Djibouti do not tolerate any form of dissent, let alone public criticism. Chaotic Somalia has a free press, publishing daily tabloids on photocopyers, but then the country does not have a government, and all indications are that Islamists are poised to impose their rigid code on the country's political system.

Yemen, across the Red Sea at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is slowly following the footsteps of Jordan with an emerging tolerance for dissenting views after multi-party elections last month.

## Gulf Arabs want to correct Yemeni ties

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf Arabs who were angered by Yemen's sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf war appear ready to allow the country gradually back into their fold, Arab diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Gulf Arab states boycotted Yemen during the crisis for voting against a U.N. Security Council resolution which allowed a U.S.-led military alliance to use force against Iraq. But they are now showing new readiness to deal with Sanaa.

"Everywhere in the Gulf the atmosphere appears to be improving for Yemen," a well-placed Arab diplomat said. "After all, unlike Sudan and Jordan, they are neighbours in the Arabian Peninsula."

Diplomats see the reconciliation as vital for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's efforts to pull Yemen out of a severe economic recession caused by the boycott.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia responded favourably this week to Yemeni efforts to mend the rift.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, who in December called for turning a new leaf in inter-Arab ties, Wednesday called for a fresh start in relations with Sanaa.

In a letter to Yemeni President Saleh, Sheikh Zayed said it was necessary to "close the past chapter and proceed with spirit of tolerance."

On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah, heading a team to Sanaa for border talks with Yemen, told reporters he would deliver a letter to Mr. Saleh from King Fahd on bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen have for several months been negotiating a settlement of their dispute over a potentially oil-rich border area. Both say they are committed to a peaceful resolution.

The Saudi message was a further indication ties could be on the mend, diplomats said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who helped form the anti-Iraq Arab alliance during the Gulf crisis, discussed efforts to reconcile Arab states during his current tour of Gulf states which ended Sunday.

But diplomats said the willingness to forgive Yemen did not extend to whom the Gulf states saw as Iraq's other supporters.

They said efforts, led by Morocco's King Hassan, to convene an Arab summit appeared to be going nowhere because Gulf Arab leaders would not sit in the same room as Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

"There is improvement with one or two states," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa told Reuters Friday while visiting Abu Dhabi.

"There are still difficulties in the path of total Arab reconciliation," he added.

Yemen's new parliamentary speaker said Sunday ties with other Arab states were on the mend and called for extra effort to narrow a rift created by the Gulf crisis.

"Things are starting to return to normal and the door between us and our (Gulf) neighbours has been opened," said Sheikh Hussein Al Ahmar. He was elected, on Saturday to preside over Yemen's new 301-seat parliament, the first to emerge from multi-party elections.

Pro-Saudi Ahmar, leader of the large Islamic opposition Yemeni Gathering for Reform (YGR) party, told a news conference: "We shall all work to overcome what has happened during the Gulf crisis."

The election of Mr. Ahmar was a concession to the Islamists by the two parties that ruled North and South Yemen before the country reunited in 1990. The two parties have agreed to merge, giving them an absolute majority in the new assembly.

## Iraqi request to maintain its aircraft turned down

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Sattar Al Maini said Sunday the United Nations had turned down an Iraqi request to assemble all its civil aircraft, now in a number of airports, in a neighbouring country to make the necessary maintenance for them.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Maini said Iraq had 37 aircraft parked in Arab airports, including 27 in Iran, four in Tunisia and six in Jordan.

He said Iraq also had 18 ships anchored at Arab and foreign ports.

Mr. Maini said the rejection by the U.N. of the Iraqi request will not make it possible for Iraq, even if the embargo is lifted, to fly these planes because of lack of proper maintenance.

"This means that Iraq will lose billions of dollars," he said.

He said his government reserved the right to claim compensation for the loss.

Mr. Maini said Iraq had made contacts through diplomatic

channels with the U.N. and international humanitarian organisations to use its planes for transporting medicine and foodstuffs for Iraq or to assemble these planes and ships in any neighbouring Arab country but was denied permission.

The Iraqi request was made in New York last month by the head of Iraqi Airways.

Iraq sent its 22 Russian-built and 15 American-made civil airliners to foreign airports just before the 1991 Gulf war.

Commenting on the meeting of the General Assembly of the Joint Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company, which was held here Saturday, Mr. Maini said the assembly discussed the company's financial situation, financial accounts and its general budget for the year 1992 and the estimated 1993 budget as well as the company's statute. He said Jordan and Iraq were interested in developing the company and expanding its activities.

## Kuwait says 12 'Bush plot' accused face death

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Twelve alleged Iraqi agents could face the death penalty for allegedly planning to kill George Bush here last month, Kuwaiti prosecutors said Sunday.

Attorney General Mohammed al Banai told a news conference the 11 Iraqis and one Kuwaiti were among 16 people arrested on suspicion of involvement in an alleged plot to blow up the former U.S. president on his April 14-16 visit.

U.S. Congressmen have urged military action against Iraq if official Baghdad backing for the alleged plot is proved.

Mr. Banai said he had filed various charges against 14 of the 16 Sunday. Ten faced a charge of plotting to assassinate Mr. Bush and two faced a charge of being an accomplice to the plot. Both crimes were punishable by death, he said.

Of the remainder, two had been charged with providing shelter for some of the 12 without knowing their intentions.

A further two were to be charged with smuggling alcohol and their case would be tried separately.

Charges of attempting to assassinate Mr. Bush were filed against a 17th person, an Iraqi, who was still at large, Mr. Banai said.

"The investigations proved beyond any doubt that the Iraqi intelligence apparatus motivated that rotten lot of defendants to implement the plans of the Iraqi regime," Mr. Banai said in a statement distributed to reporters.

Iraq has denied that it was involved in such a plot and accused the United States and Kuwait of laying the groundwork for a new military strike against it.

Mr. Banai said the plan was to detonate a carbomb near the building where Mr. Bush received an honorary degree. If that failed, he said, Wali Al Ghazali, 36, an Iraqi, planned to strap explosives around his waist and blow himself up, along with Mr. Bush.

Kuwaiti authorities arrested what it calls an "Iraqi sabotage net" on April 14, the day Mr. Bush arrived on a three-day visit. He is revered in Kuwait for leading the 32-nation coalition that liberated the emirate from a seven-month Iraqi occupation on Feb. 26, 1991.

A team U.S. Secret Service agents interrogated the suspects, Mr. Banai said.

President Saddam Hussein's half-brother, Barzan Ibrahim Al Tikriti, wrote in a Baghdad newspaper Sunday that Iraq's enemies continue to plot against it because they have failed to break Iraq and break the spirit and mentality of its people.

Mr. Tikriti, writing in the Al Jomhuriyah daily, said the allies could do so more than they have done already.

"Yes martyrs will fall among us, but they will be replaced by other heroes, and any aggression will orphan some children and will widow some women, but Iraq will remain lofty," he wrote in an article carried by the Iraqi News Agency.

## COLUMN

### Australian released in jail mixup back in custody

SYDNEY (R) — A convicted rapist released from prison 10 months early because of bureaucratic bungle was apprehended after police were tipped off to his whereabouts by executives of a Sydney newspaper. Graham Jack Walker, 44, had refused to return to jail when the mistake was discovered. Police had requested that he turn himself in but until Friday, 12 days after his release, they had no power to detain him because he had broken no laws. In a television interview earlier, Mr. Walker had threatened to shoot it out with police rather than go back behind bars. The Sydney Morning Herald reported Saturday that Mr. Walker was recaptured in a taxi north of Sydney while he was on his way to meet one of the newspaper's reporters. The Herald said newspaper executives had informed the police of the meeting following legal advice. Police said Mr. Walker would be held until a court decided whether or not he should be returned to jail.

### Chaplin mementos sold off

GENEVA (AP) — A violin Charlie Chaplin is said to have played in the 1916 silent film The Vagabond fetched 48,000 Swiss francs (\$33,000) at an auction of the great comedian's memorabilia, held despite a protest by his children. The fiddle, modified for a left-handed player, was among 461 lots, ranging from bow ties and a silk pajama to hand-written pages of a film manuscript, that sold for a total of 220,000 francs (\$152,000). The violin's buyer identified himself only as a collector from Algeria. A dark blue suit Chaplin wore as a 1952 reception by Queen Elizabeth II was bought for 18,000 francs (\$12,400) by Frans Billen, a Belgian car dealer. Four lots of handwritten pages from the scenario for a film Chaplin never made, The Freak, found unidentified buyers for a total of 33,100 francs (\$22,900). The movie, on which Chaplin worked from the 1960s until his death, was to have starred his daughter Victoria. Chaplin's eight children voiced disgust at the sale of dozens of wardrobe items by his Italian housekeeper Mirella Canese.

### Elvis's guitar fetches \$151,700 at auction

LONDON (R) — A guitar used by Elvis Presley to record some of his earliest hits was sold for \$151,700 at auction. The 1942 Martin D-18 acoustic guitar, billed by auctioneers as "the guitar which turned Elvis Presley into the king of rock and roll," was bought by American music boss Michael Malone who flew to Britain for the sale. "This is the holy grail of rock and roll," Mr. Malone said. His company AEI produces music for airlines and shops and he already owns a guitar which belonged to Beatles star John Lennon and another owned by Bill Haley. A Christie's spokesman said: "We are absolutely overjoyed. There has been great interest from collectors around the world and the price achieved justified our enthusiasm for it." The guitar had been expected to fetch more than \$100,000 (\$153,000). The two songs which set Presley on the road to stardom — That's All Right Mama and Blue Moon of Kentucky — were recorded with the instrument under the legendary Sun label in July 1954. Both became local hits in Memphis, Tennessee.

### Rare Rembrandt printing plates return to Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM (R) — Five copper printing plates etched by Rembrandt are returning to the 17th century Dutch master's home city, the Rembrandt House Museum said. The Rembrandt House — where the artist lived and worked in his most creative years — and two other Amsterdam museums recently bought the rare plates from the heirs of a U.S. art collector for a total amount of 540,000 guilders (\$290,000). Up to now only one of Rembrandt's etched plates, owned by a private collector, has been in Dutch hands. "The plates are in surprisingly good condition and have lost almost nothing of their authenticity," the Rembrandt House said. The museum, which specialises in Rembrandt's prints, said it was delighted to have made such an important addition to its collection. All five plates will be exhibited at the Rembrandt House from May 20 to July 11.